**FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS**

Client: ____________________________________________

Date of Assessment: ________________________________

**RATIONALE**

This type of assessment will expose Johnny to conditions that might set the occasion for aggression towards others, self-injury, and environmental destruction. These conditions are based on years of research indicating that positive and negative reinforcement (either social or non-social) are consequences that maintain problem behaviour. By identifying which source of reinforcement accounts for Johnny’s problem behaviour, individualized treatment programs can be developed.

**PROTECTION FROM RISK**

Johnny’s protection and risk reduction from harm will consist of session termination criterion following the first incident of self-injury or aggression toward others, as well as modifications to the assessment format to minimize the number of incidence of target behaviour (brief functional analysis with latency measures).

**INFORMED CONSENT**

Functional Analysis assessment described and explained to the ________ clinical team on ______________________. The assessment process, risks, and benefits were explained to Johnny’s substitute decision maker or legal guardian on ______________________.

**SESSION LOCATION**

Each session will be conducted at ____________________________________________________.

**SESSION LENGTH**

Each session will last ____ minutes in length.

**CLINICIANS PRESENT**

The Functional Analysis will be supervised by ___________________________ and supported by ________________________________________________________________.

**AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDING**

Audio and video recordings _________ be completed during the assessment. Consents for audio and video recording were obtained from ______________________________________________________ on ________________________.

Created by Ross Violo, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, ross.violo@camh.ca
ASSESSMENT CONDITIONS

Control Condition

Purpose: The condition is a control for all the test conditions because Johnny is not alone, attention is available, and no tasks are presented. As a result the target behaviour should occur least often in the condition. If the aggression, self-injury, disruption or environmental destruction occurs at a high rate in the condition, it is possible that the behaviour produces its own reinforcers and the alternative activities do not compete with problem behaviour.

- **Antecedent conditions**: the room should contain toys, leisure materials, and known reinforcers. The client should have free access to the items. At 30-second intervals the therapist should approach client and engage in conversation for 5-10 seconds, also the therapist should respond to any appropriate social behaviour initiated by client.

- **Consequence**: there are no consequences for problem behavior, except that attention should be delayed if problem behaviour occurs just as attention is about to be delivered during following the 30-second interval.

Alone Condition

Purpose: This is a test for non-social or automatic reinforcement. If the aggression, self-injury, disruption or environmental destruction occurs at a high rate in the absence of social interaction, it is likely that the behaviour produces its own reinforcers (as in self-stimulation)

- **Antecedent conditions**: no therapist is necessary for this condition, if one is present, no social interaction occurs. The room should contain no toys, leisure materials, or reinforcers.

- **Consequence**: The are no social consequences for the behaviour (e.g., no comments or changes in facial expression).

Attention Condition

Purpose: This a test condition for social positive reinforcement. If the rate of aggression, self-injury, disruption or environmental destruction is higher in the condition than in others, it is likely that the behaviour is maintained by attention as a consequence.

- **Antecedent conditions**: the environment should contain some toys or leisure materials, which are freely available during the session. Sessions begin with the therapist stating that he or she needs to “do some work”, read the paper, chat with a colleague etc. effectively removing all interaction with client. From this point on the only interaction with client will follow the target behaviour.

- **Consequence**: Following each occurrence of a target behaviour the therapist approaches the client and makes a statement of concern, which can be paired wit brief physical contact. These interactions should last about 5-10 seconds. If the client continues to engage in the behaviour during the interaction, the interaction should continue.
Tangible Item/Activity Condition

Purpose: This condition is a test for socially mediated tangible positive reinforcement. If the rate of aggression, self-injury, disruption or environmental destruction is higher in the condition than in others, it is likely that the behaviour is maintained by a preferred item/activity as a consequence.

• Antecedent conditions: the setting will contain some preferred and leisure materials, which are NOT freely available during the session. During the session Johnny will receive relatively constant fixed attention for the therapist. From this point on the only interaction with Johnny will be with fixed attention. Any attempt to talk about or access the preferred item or activity will be physically blocked or verbally denied/refused.

• Consequence: Following each occurrence of target behaviour, the patient will be allowed access to tangible items for approximately 30 seconds, at which time the items will be removed and the antecedent conditions re-initiated.

Escape Condition

Purpose: This is a test condition for social negative reinforcement. If aggression, self-injury, disruption or environmental destruction occurs most frequently in the condition, it is likely that behaviour is maintained by escape from task demands.

• Antecedent conditions: the therapist begins the session by presenting a relevant task demand (educational, vocational, self-care etc.) to the Johnny. If he does not comply after 5 seconds, the therapist demonstrates the correct response (or provides a touch prompt). If Johnny does not comply the therapist physically guides the client through the task. These instructional trials are repeated until the end of session. No other interaction between Johnny and therapist will occur during session.

• Consequence: Following each occurrence of target behaviour, the instructional trial (demand) is immediately terminated without comment from the therapist, and the next trial is delayed for 30 seconds.
ASSESSMENT FORMAT DETAILS

- **Functional Analysis (Brief format):** if assessment time is extremely limited (e.g., only part of a day is available), reduce session length to 5 minutes and run as many sessions as time allows.

- **Functional Analysis (Latency Measure):** if problem behaviour is rather severe and cannot be allowed to occur very often, run sessions as described above, but terminate the session after the first occurrence of problem behaviour that occur, the measure will be the latency from the start of the session to the first occurrence.

- **Functional Analysis of Precursors:** if problem behaviour is rather severe and cannot be allowed to occur very often, precursors to problem behaviour will be identified and sessions will be terminated when precursors are observed. The measure will be the latency from the start of the session to the first occurrence.

SIGNATURES

______________________________ ______________________________
Patient’s Substitute Decision Maker   Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

______________________________ ______________________________
Clinician     Clinician

______________________________ ______________________________
Clinician     Clinician

REFERENCES


Iwata et al. Functional analysis of self-injurious behavior: Dual Diagnosis Certification Brock University (2009)


Created by Ross Violo, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, ross.violo@camh.ca