

Guidance: Resident risk identification

Purpose

Resident risk assessments should be completed for all residents before May 1 annually, and updated as required throughout the heat season.

Risk identification

While all older adults are at risk during heat events, there are some who are at higher risk during heat events.

We recommend using the criteria below to identify those who are at the highest risk. Residents at high risk must be identified as such in resident charts (electronically or paper) and on the resident's door.

Residents at highest risk include those who:

- Are unable to adapt their behaviour to keep cool, such as those with cognitive loss or immobility
- Have specific conditions, such as heart disease, diabetes, respiratory or renal insufficiency, Parkinson's disease, obesity, and skin disorders that impact sweating
- Are on multiple medications, particularly anticholinergics, vasoconstrictors, antihistamines, diuretics, antihypertensive and psychoactive drugs
- Consult with a pharmacist for medication review
- Are older (especially women and those over 75 years old)
- Have mental health issues such as depression, bipolar disorder or psychosis
- Are isolating in their room for infection control purposes