

Sample Suicide Assessment Form

(Adapted From Hennepin County Medical Center,
Minneapolis, MN)

Sample Suicide Potential Assessment Form

Primary Risk Factors

CURRENT (Consult a psychiatrist or another staff member if ANY ONE of the following factors is present):

1. **Attempt** (+) Present (-) Absent

- Suicide attempt with lethal method (e.g., firearms, hanging/strangulation, jumping from high places).
- Suicide attempt resulting in moderate to severe lesions/toxicity.
- Suicide attempt with low rescue-ability (e.g., no known communication regarding the attempt, discovery unlikely because of chosen location and timing, no one nearby or in contact, active precaution to prevent discovery).
- Suicide attempt with subsequent expressed regret that it was not completed AND continued expressed desire to commit suicide OR unwillingness to accept treatment.

2. **Intent** (includes suicidal thoughts, preoccupation, plans, threats, and impulses, whether communicated directly by the client or by another person based on observation of the client).

- Intent to commit suicide imminently.
- Suicidal intent with a lethal method selected and readily available.
- Suicidal intent AND preparations made for death (writing a testament or suicide note, giving away possessions, or making certain business or insurance arrangements).
- Suicidal intent with time and place planned AND foreseeable opportunity to commit suicide.
- Presence of acute command hallucinations to kill self, whether or not there is expressed suicidal intent.
- Suicidal intent with CURRENT ACTIVE psychosis, especially major affective disorder or schizophrenia.
- Suicidal intent or other objective indicators of elevated suicide risk, but mental condition or lack of cooperation preclude adequate assessment.

Secondary Risk Factors

MEDIATING (Consult a psychiatrist or another staff member if, in addition to some indication of increased risk, 7 out of the following 13 factors are present):

(+) Present (-) Absent (0) Unknown

- Recent separation or divorce.
- Recent death of significant other.
- Recent job loss or severe financial setback.
- Other stressful events (e.g., victimization, threat of criminal prosecution, unwanted pregnancy, discovery of severe illness).
- Social isolation.
- Current or past major mental illness.
- Current or past chemical dependency/abuse.
- History of suicide attempt(s).
- History of family suicide (include recent suicide by a close friend).
- Current or past difficulties with impulse control or antisocial behavior.
- Significant depression (whether clinically diagnosable or not), especially if accompanied by feelings of guilt, worthlessness, or helplessness.
- Expressed hopelessness.
- Rigidity (difficulty adapting to life changes).

Major Contributing Demographic Characteristics

Not to be included in the ratings, but considered in the overall assessment of suicide risk:

- Male (especially older, white male).
- Living alone.
- Single, divorced, separated, or widowed.
- Unemployed.
- Chronic financial difficulties.