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.