

Supplemental Table 1. Components of a Suicide Risk Assessment Protocol in Research

Component	General Guidelines
<p>Training and Supervision of Study Staff</p>	<p>Training may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the study manual</li> <li>• Review of the assessment measure</li> <li>• Any onsite, offsite, or online training (e.g., Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale online training)</li> <li>• Role-plays</li> </ul> <p>Supervision may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervised practice assessments</li> <li>• Regular clinical supervision of assessments</li> <li>• Review of audio/video recordings and formal reliability ratings of assessments</li> <li>• Review of research data</li> </ul> <p>Researchers should set up parameters for determining when study staff are proficient in conducting a risk assessment</p>
<p>Licensed Clinician Availability</p>	<p>Considerations may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicating when appointments are scheduled and if a licensed clinician needs to be on call (e.g., using Outlook calendar)</li> <li>• If a graduate student or postdoctoral fellow is on call, a licensed clinician should also be able to address any questions or concerns</li> <li>• As any participant may spontaneously report suicidality on any contact (e.g., scheduling call), a clinician should always be available during research appointments</li> </ul>
<p>Thresholds for Contact</p>	<p>Deciding on thresholds for contact may differ depending on the study sample, site, and IRB. Examples of different, and not mutually exclusive, thresholds for clinician contact include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any non-zero ideation (e.g., this may be appropriate in a study of adolescents or undergraduate students)</li> <li>• Suicidal intent or plan (e.g., this may be appropriate in large studies with chronically suicidal participants)</li> <li>• Any recent suicidal behavior (including actual attempts, aborted attempts, interrupted attempts, preparatory behaviors)</li> <li>• Acute risk factors such as those described in Suicide Crisis Syndrome (i.e., entrapment, affective disturbance, loss of cognitive control, hyperarousal, social withdrawal; Galynker, 2017) and Acute Suicidal Affective Disturbance (i.e., a sudden surge in suicidal intent over minutes, hours, or days, severe social withdrawal, marked self-alienation; Tucker et al., 2016)</li> <li>• Study staff should be instructed to contact study clinicians at any point if they feel uncomfortable or uncertain with a participant's safety.</li> </ul>

	<p>If thresholds are met, study staff should contact the clinician on call to provide relevant information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether the clinician assesses the participant in person is based on their clinical judgment</li> <li>• The on-call clinician (never research assistants or non-licensed research staff) should make decisions about disposition.</li> </ul>
<p>Responding to Risk</p>	<p>Responding to risk may require one or more of the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing referrals (e.g., National Suicide Prevention Lifeline [1-800-273-8255], local emergency rooms, Boys Town National Hotline); researchers should develop a strong referral network upfront to ensure that they will be able to assist participants who need crisis management and timely treatment.</li> <li>• Escorting or arranging transportation for the participant to a local emergency room for further evaluation</li> <li>• After obtaining releases, calling the participant’s outpatient treatment providers and/or supports to alert them to risk</li> <li>• Calling local police or security to assist when a participant is judged to be at imminent risk but is not accepting help</li> <li>• Following up with a participant in the upcoming days to re-assess risk level</li> </ul>
<p>Documentation</p>	<p>When forming protocols, researchers should confer with their IRB of record and Data Safety and Monitoring Boards regarding suicide-related adverse events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In some studies, suicide can be both a serious adverse event <i>and</i> a study outcome, and reporting may depend on whether the event was related or unrelated to study procedures</li> <li>• For example, in one suicide intervention trial, events determined to be relevant for assessing participant safety included: emergency department visit, suicide or potentially suicide-related hospitalization, actual suicide attempt, suicide death</li> </ul> <p>Any incident that requires clinical contact should be internally documented. This documentation may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A description of risk and protective factors (e.g., CAIPS: chronic factors, acute factors, imminent warning signs, protective factors, summary statement; see Obegi et al., 2015)</li> <li>• Steps research staff took to assess and respond to participant safety</li> <li>• Associated rationale for the response</li> </ul>

*Note.* The components described here are neither exhaustive nor prescriptive, and may depend on the study sample, study design, and regulatory bodies.