

# From the Office of Health Informatics Primary Care and Pediatric Practices Suicide Risk Screening & Assessment

March 18, 2025

Universal suicide risk screening is performed at each visit for patients 12 years and older. Patients who screen positive will require further screening and assessment with the provider to determine if further intervention is needed, including safety planning.

### **Initial Suicide Risk Screening Questions**

During intake, complete the **PHQ2 Plus** or **Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Screening (EPDS)** with the patient. If appropriate, complete the full PHQ9/PHQA including, four additional questions at the bottom of the PHQA.

- **<u>STEP 1</u>**: Suicide Risk Screening Questions, positive screen is indicated when:
  - PHQ9/PHQA: A response of anything other than, not at all, for Item 9, Thoughts Better off dead or hurting self.
  - PHQA: A Yes response to additional suicide questions at the bottom, Has there been a time in the past month when you have had serious thoughts about ending your life? Or Have you EVER, in your
     WHOLE LIFE, tried to kill yourself or made a suicide attempt?
  - **EPDS:** A response of anything other than, **Never**, to **Item 10**, The thought of harming myself has occurred to me.
- NOTE: If the EPDS is completed with the mother, during a newborn visit, the alert will not populate in the newborn's chart.
- **STEP 2:** If a **positive** response to any of the screening questions, a **SmartZone alert** fires for the provider to complete the **BH SAFE-T Protocol with CSSRS PowerForm**.
  - Clinical staff will communicate to provider if there is a positive response to an initial screening question.
- <u>NOTE</u>: If patient scores a 5 or above on the Depression Screening, the Depression Follow-Up Plan SmartZone alert may also fire. For more information on how to address the alert, click <u>here</u>.

## BH SAFE-T w/CSSRS Assessment PowerForms

Further suicide risk screening is required by the provider if there is an elevated risk of suicide in response to an initial screening question.

> There are two **BH SAFE-T PowerForms**, initial and reassessment; the SmartZone alert will automatically prompt the appropriate assessment for the provider to complete.

| 9. Thoughts Better             | Off Dead or Hurting Self*   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| ○ Not at all<br>○ Several days | <ul> <li>More than half the days</li> <li>Nearly every day</li> </ul> |

| Has th<br>had se | ere been a time in the past month when you have<br>rious thoughts about ending your life? |
|------------------|---|
| O Yes<br>O No    |   |
|                  | Have you EVER, in your WHOLE LIFE, tried to kill yourself<br>or made a suicide attempt?   |
|                  | O Yes<br>O No   |

| 0 | Yes, guite often |
|---|------------------|
| Ō | Sometimes        |
| Ô | Hardly ever      |
| Ö | Never            |

| () Information   |  |
|--|--|
| Elevated risk of suicide. Administer BH SAFE-T<br>Protocol with CSSRS and evaluate further |  |

- Initial Assessment: CSSRS Screener is completed when a full BH SAFE-T assessment has never been documented by someone at Northern Light Health.
  - **CSSRS Screener** asks the **lifetime Suicidal Behavior** question (6a) which, if positive, will prompt the provider to complete a full assessment.
- **Reassessment: CSSRS Since Last Asked Screener** is completed once a full assessment is already documented in Cerner, with an **Assessed Risk Level**, by someone at Northern Light Health.
  - **CSSRS Since Last Asked** screens for **imminent risk**. If the patient had suicidal behaviors in their lifetime, but not since last asked, it may not require a full assessment.
- <u>NOTE</u>: The lifetime Suicidal Behavior question (6a) will populate at the top of the CSSRS Since Last Asked Screener, for historical reference. This is not a part of the Since Last Asked Screener.

| 6a. Have you ever done anything,<br>started to do anything, or prepared<br>to do anything to end your life? (ref) |
|---|
| 🖲 Lifetime, yes   |
| O Lifetime, no  |
|   |

#### Low Risk Screening BH SAFE-T Protocol with CSSRS

When screening indicates a **Low Risk**, further assessment is not needed unless the provider feels further assessment is warranted.

- **<u>STEP 1</u>**: Complete the **CSSRS Screener/CSSRS Since Last Asked Screener**.
- <u>NOTE</u>: The Screener auto-calculates the Screened Suicide Risk Level. If *Low Risk*, a conditional section populates stating that patient is Low Risk- No Assessment Needed.
- **<u>STEP 2</u>**: Close the **Low Risk window** and select the **green checkmark** to **Sign** the Form.
- Moderate or High-Risk Screening BH SAFE-T Protocol with CSSRS

When a risk screening indicates a **Moderate** or **High Risk**, further assessment is needed to determine a patient's suicide risk level.

- **<u>STEP 1</u>**: Complete **Asmt Risk Factors and Behaviors** section.
- **<u>STEP 2</u>**: Complete **Asmt Protective Factors** section.
- **<u>STEP 3</u>**: Select **Asmt Risk Stratification** section.
- **<u>STEP 4</u>**: Select applicable responses, starting at high risk.
  - Refer to responses in previous sections to determine the most appropriate boxes to select.
- **<u>STEP 5</u>**: Indicate **Risk Interventions** used.

| <ul> <li>Suicidal ideation with intent, plan in part month</li> <li>Suicidal Instancia within part 3 months</li> </ul>  |   |
|---|---|
| Possible High Risk Interventions Only choose Interventions  | that are applicable to your area of care.   |
| Attentioned of policien's useficied subbility  Description status  Description status  Description precursion  Description precursion  Productions and policy and   | Paschoetkución jooping skille, stress managene     Salay Plan Pisolad     Telephone lokari yo yoon dischage     Emergenzy dispatriani <u>Rivysky stress contact and Crisis Linkov</u> Contact Crisis 198     Offer: |
| Moderate Risk   |   |
| Moderate Risk Only choose Interventions that are applic   | able to your area of care.  |
| Suidal behavior aware than 1 marcha ago     Multiple rolk tactos and then polestive factors     Possible Moderate Risk Interventions     Phanacological teatment  | Provide SBB Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Contact Crisis 198  |
| Psychothesapy (0E: 1001)     Psychoeducation (coping shills, stress management, symptoms management, etc.     Enorgement with tanky member or significant other     Salety Plan Provided  | Differ:   |
| Pig-bit Missay (08.1.161)     Published and in Spinish these management, singlement with large method to a significant of the     Safety Plan Provided  | Chergency department<br>Other   |
| Piptiotecapy (02, 041)     Piptiotecapy     Piptiotecapy     Piptiotecapy     Piptiotecapy (02, 0 | Creepony department     Offee: to your area of care.  |
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- **<u>STEP 6</u>**: Select the **Asmt Risk Level** section.
- **<u>STEP 7:</u>** Complete the **Assessed Risk Level** and **Clinical Formulation**.
- NOTE: Use the appropriate auto text to populate the risk level and clinical formulation in the note.
  - /bh\_safe-t\_initial\_assessment
  - /bh\_safe-t\_reassessment

#### Safety Plan

If an assessment is performed and patient is determined safe to go home, a safety plan is completed.

- **<u>STEP 1</u>**: Complete **Safety Plan** section with the patient if it has previously been completed, the information auto populates; review and update as needed.
- NOTE: Complete Last Updated field when you review the safety plan with the patient.
- **<u>STEP 2</u>**: Enter in **Patient Instructions**, auto text /**bh\_safetyplan**.
  - Print the Ambulatory Patient Summary to provide the patient the Safety Plan information.
- <u>NOTE</u>: Ambulatory Visit summaries are also available in the patient portal.

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|    | Tahoma     | - 9                  | • 🔀 |      |           |
|    | /bh_safe   | <br>/bh_safetyplan * |     |      |           |

For questions regarding process and/or policies, please contact your unit's Clinical Educator or Health Informaticist. For any other questions please contact the Customer Support Center at: 207-973-7728 or 1-888-827-7728.

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|----|------------------------------|--|
| ОĿ | ow risk Clinical Formulation |  |
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