

# COLUMBIA-SUICIDE SEVERITY RATING SCALE

Screening Version – Since Last Visit

SUICIDE IDEATION DEFINITIONS AND PROMPTS	Since Last Contact	
Ask questions that are <b>Bold AND <i>Italics</i> AND <u>Underlined</u></b>	YES	NO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ask Questions 1 and 2</b></li> </ul>		
<p><b>1) Wish to be Dead:</b></p> <p>Person endorses thoughts about a wish to be dead or not alive anymore, or wish to fall asleep and not wake up.</p> <p><b><u>Have you wished you were dead or wished you could go to sleep and not wake up?</u></b></p>		
<p><b>2) Suicidal Thoughts:</b></p> <p>General non-specific thoughts of wanting to end one's life/die by suicide, "<i>I've thought about killing myself</i>" without general thoughts of ways to kill oneself/associated methods, intent, or plan.</p> <p><b><u>Have you actually had any thoughts of killing yourself?</u></b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>If YES to 2, ask questions 3, 4, 5, and 6. If NO to 2, go directly to question 6</b></li> </ul>		
<p><b>3) Suicidal Thoughts with Method (without Specific Plan or Intent to Act):</b></p> <p>Person endorses thoughts of suicide and has thought of a least one method during the assessment period. This is different than a specific plan with time, place or method details worked out. "<i>I thought about taking an overdose but I never made a specific plan as to when, where, or how I would actually do it....and I would never go through with it.</i>"</p> <p><b><u>Have you been thinking about how you might do this?</u></b></p>		
<p><b>4) Suicidal Intent (without Specific Plan):</b></p> <p>Active suicidal thoughts of killing oneself and patient reports having some intent to act on such thoughts, as opposed to "I have the thoughts but I definitely will not do anything about them."</p> <p><b><u>Have you had these thoughts and had some intention of acting on them?</u></b></p>		
<p><b>5) Suicide Intent with Specific Plan:</b></p> <p>Thoughts of killing oneself with details of plan fully or partially worked out and person has some intent to carry it out.</p> <p><b><u>Have you started to work out or worked out the details of how to kill yourself? Do you intend to carry out this plan?</u></b></p>		
<p><b>6) Suicide Behavior</b></p> <p><b><u>Have you done anything, started to do anything, or prepared to do anything to end your life?</u></b></p> <p>Examples: Collected pills, obtained a gun, gave away valuables, wrote a will or suicide note, took out pills but didn't swallow any, held a gun but changed your mind or it was grabbed from your hand, went to the roof but didn't jump; or actually took pills, tried to shoot yourself, cut yourself, tried to hang yourself, etc.</p>		

For inquiries and training information contact: Kelly Posner, Ph.D.

New York State Psychiatric Institute, 1051 Riverside Drive, New York, New York, 10032; posnerk@nyspi.columbia.edu

© 2008 The Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc.