

Royal Children's Hospital	POLICY: SUICIDE RISK ASSESSMENT	Policy No:
		Issue Date: July 2014
Gatehouse Centre (for the Assessment & Treatment of Child Abuse)		Review Date: July 2015
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1. Policy statement

The issue of suicide/self harm frequently presents in relation to a history of child abuse. Clinicians will include a screening for indicators of suicide risk/self harm for all clients as part of their overall assessment. Where significant self harm/suicide is considered a risk for a client, consultation and/or referral with the mental health service, or after hours the on call Psychiatric Registrar should occur as soon as possible.

2. Persons affected

All staff.

3. Definition of Terms

Risk factors include the following:

- Disclosure of self harm or suicidal ideation
- High risk behaviours threatened or carried out
- Non-compliance with treatment
- Poor family, social and community supports

See attached document: "Risk Factors Checklist"

4. Responsibility

The treating Gatehouse Centre clinician is responsible for an initial screening assessment of risk and developing a risk management plan as well as timely consultation with and referral to the appropriate mental health service. All such assessments, consultations and referrals must be clearly documented.

Where a clinician determines that a client is at risk shall call a Red flag meeting immediately after making this assessment to consult regarding the risk management plan.

The risk management plan should be recorded in the client's file AND on the first client details screen of IRIS.

The client's name should also be placed on the Gatehouse High risk register – a copy of which is in the Crisis Care Unit.

5. Criteria

An initial screening assessment will be undertaken by the Gatehouse Centre clinician.

Further risk assessment will be undertaken by a suitably qualified mental health clinician.

The screening assessment will identify risk factors and degree of risk to ensure the safety of the patient, staff and others.

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Notification or referral to relevant persons and agencies is mandatory where the risk is considered to be high. Communication of risk information to relevant persons and agencies is essential.

6. Special provisions/reference documents (which may be referred to)

Risk factors checklist