

SCHOOL NURSE TRIAGE TOOL FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONCERNS

Signs and/or Symptoms	Assessment of Risk	Response Team	Possible Interventions
Acute Mental Illness – (hearing voices, seeing visions, delusional thinking, excessive preoccupation with ideas or thoughts, odd or incomprehensible speech, self identification of major mental illness such as schizophrenia, bipolar or “manic depressive”)	High	<input type="checkbox"/> SCT	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent / SAT Notification <input type="checkbox"/> School Crisis Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Response Services <input type="checkbox"/> Re-entry Plan
Anxiety – (restlessness, agitation, insomnia, frequent frightening nightmares, flashbacks, intrusive thoughts, obsessive fears, excessive rumination, etc.)	Variable	<input type="checkbox"/> Nursing <input type="checkbox"/> SCT, if elevated	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent /SAT Notification <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Response Services <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor
Change in ability to care for self – (not eating, not bathing or changing clothes, etc.)	Variable	<input type="checkbox"/> SAT <input type="checkbox"/> Pediatrician <input type="checkbox"/> DCF Referral	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/ SAT Notification <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor
Child abuse or domestic violence - (contact law enforcement / child protective services as required)	High	<input type="checkbox"/> DCF Referral	<input type="checkbox"/> SAT Notification
Communication changes – (lack of interest in communication with family and friends)	Variable	<input type="checkbox"/> SAT	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/ SAT Notification <input type="checkbox"/> Internal/ External Referral <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor
Conflicts with family or friends – (frequent fights or upset relationships, etc.)	Variable	<input type="checkbox"/> SAT <input type="checkbox"/> SCT <input type="checkbox"/> DCF <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/ SAT Notification <input type="checkbox"/> Internal/ External Referral <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor

Emotional Lability – (crying easily, laughing inappropriately, uncontrollable angry outbursts, etc)	Variable	<input type="checkbox"/> SAT	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/ SAT Notification <input type="checkbox"/> Internal/ External Referral <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor
Depression – (feelings of hopelessness or despair, unshakable feelings of worthlessness and inadequacy, withdrawal from others, inability to engage in productive activity or provide basic care for self or others, etc.)	High	<input type="checkbox"/> SAT <input type="checkbox"/> SCT	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/ SAT Notification <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Response Services <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor
Disorientation – Need to R/O medical causes - (not able to give name, date, place, situation, loss of recent memory, inability to explain or understand what is happening, etc.)	High	<input type="checkbox"/> Pediatrician <input type="checkbox"/> SCT	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/ SAT Notification <input type="checkbox"/> SCT Notification <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Response Services
Fatigue – Exhaustion – Insomnia - Need to R/O medical causes – (recent change in sleep patterns, sleep onset difficulty, etc.)	Variable	<input type="checkbox"/> Nursing <input type="checkbox"/> Pediatrician <input type="checkbox"/> SAT	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/ SAT Notification <input type="checkbox"/> Pediatrician Referral
Physical / Somatic Complaints – Need to R/O medical causes - (complaints of pain or discomfort without identifiable physical basis after nursing assessment, frequent complaints of headache, gastro-intestinal upset, etc.)	Variable	<input type="checkbox"/> Nursing <input type="checkbox"/> Pediatrician	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent Notification <input type="checkbox"/> Pediatrician Notification
Reported abuse of alcohol or drugs – (discusses social use of drugs or alcohol among friends and family, etc.)	High	<input type="checkbox"/> SAT <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/ SAT Notification <input type="checkbox"/> SCT Notification <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Response Team

Risk-taking behaviors – (behaviors that puts self or others at harm, destructive behavior)	High	<input type="checkbox"/> SAT <input type="checkbox"/> SCT	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/ SAT Notification <input type="checkbox"/> SCT Notification <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Response Team
Statements or actions revealing thoughts or intent to kill or harm other person – (written or verbal threats against another; may need to contact law enforcement)	High	<input type="checkbox"/> SAT <input type="checkbox"/> SCT <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/ SAT Notification <input type="checkbox"/> SCT Notification <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Response Team
Statements or actions revealing thoughts or intent to take own life or harm self - (suicide ideation, cutting, giving away personal belongs, etc.)	High	<input type="checkbox"/> SAT <input type="checkbox"/> SCT <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/ SAT Notification <input type="checkbox"/> SCT Notification <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Response Team
Use of alcohol or drugs in school setting – (assessment reveals student to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol during the school day, etc.)	High	<input type="checkbox"/> SCT <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Response <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> SCT Notification <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Response Team

***NOTE: ALL SIGNS, SYMPTOMS, INTERVENTIONS AND OUTCOMES OF INTERVENTIONS SHOULD BE DOCUMENTED IN THE SCHOOL HEALTH RECORD**

- School Assistance Team (SAT)* may consist of school principal, counselors, social worker, psychologist as well as the school nurse.
- School Crisis Team (SCT)* may consist of school principal, school nurse, school resource officer, as well as school counseling staff.
- Department of Children and Families (DCF)* or other child protective services agency.