Policy Title: 8007V.1 Criteria for Risk Assessment Procedures
Patient Age Group: (X) N/A ( ) All Ages ( ) Pediatric ( ) Adult

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear criteria and procedures for conducting risk assessments for clients seeking services at Centro Savila. This policy ensures that all clients are systematically evaluated for potential risks to their safety and well-being, including risks to self, others, and the community. Early identification of risk factors allows for the development of appropriate safety plans, therapeutic interventions, and referrals to prevent harm and ensure effective, client-centered care.

Scope:

This policy applies to all licensed clinicians, intake specialists, and other staff involved in the assessment and treatment planning process at Centro Savila. The policy guides the evaluation of risk across various dimensions, including self-harm, harm to others, and environmental or situational risks.

Policy Overview:

Centro Savila is committed to ensuring the safety of all clients, staff, and the community. As part of our comprehensive assessment process, clinicians will conduct a thorough risk assessment during the intake process and as part of ongoing treatment evaluations. This risk assessment will be used to identify and manage potential risks, including but not limited to, suicidal ideation, homicidal ideation, self-harm, substance abuse, and other factors that may compromise the client's or others' safety.

Risk Assessment Procedures:

1. **Initial Risk Assessment:**
    - **Timing**: A risk assessment will be conducted at the time of initial intake and during the ongoing treatment process whenever there is a significant change in the client's clinical status or if new information suggests a heightened risk.
    - **Screening**: All clients will be screened for immediate safety concerns, including suicidal ideation, self-harm, homicidal ideation, and violent behaviors.
    - **Assessment Areas**:

        - **Suicidal Ideation and Behavior**: Clinicians will assess for current or past suicidal thoughts, plans, means, intent, and previous suicide attempts. Special attention will be paid to high-risk factors such as recent losses, trauma, substance abuse, and mental health disorders (e.g., depression, anxiety, psychosis).
        - **Homicidal Ideation**: Clinicians will assess for any ideation or intent to harm others, as well as access to weapons or other means of harm.
        - **Self-Harm**: An assessment of the client's history and current tendencies toward self-harming behaviors (e.g., cutting, burning, or other forms of self-injury) will be conducted.
        - **Substance Abuse**: Risk related to substance abuse (e.g., overdose, impaired judgment) will be assessed, particularly in relation to its impact on mental health and decision-making.
        - **Psychotic Symptoms**: Any psychotic symptoms, including delusions or hallucinations, that may increase risk (e.g., command hallucinations, paranoid delusions) will be evaluated.
        - **Impulsivity and Aggression**: Clinicians will assess for impulsive behaviors or aggression toward others, considering past incidents of violence or agitation.
2. **Ongoing Risk Assessment:**
    - **Reevaluation**: Risk assessments will be revisited regularly during the course of treatment. If there is any significant change in the client's mental or emotional status, treatment plan, or life circumstances (e.g., trauma, loss, changes in living situation), a new risk assessment will be conducted.
    - **Crisis Situations**: In the event of a crisis (e.g., sudden increase in suicidal ideation, aggression, or substance abuse), an immediate, focused risk assessment will be conducted to assess current safety and to initiate appropriate interventions.
    - **Special Considerations**: For clients who have demonstrated past violent behavior or self-destructive tendencies, or those with a history of significant trauma or substance abuse, the clinician will implement more frequent risk assessments to ensure ongoing safety.
3. **Risk Assessment Areas:**
    - **Suicide Risk**: Risk factors such as:
        - Previous suicide attempts
        - Chronic mental health issues (e.g., depression, bipolar disorder)
        - Substance abuse
        - Access to means (e.g., firearms, medications)
        - Family history of suicide or mental illness
        - Recent trauma, loss, or life stressors
    - **Homicide Risk**: Risk factors include:
        - History of violent behavior or aggression
        - Recent interpersonal conflict (e.g., family or romantic relationships)
        - Paranoia, delusions, or hallucinations
        - Access to weapons
        - Substance use contributing to impaired judgment
    - **Self-Harm**: Factors to assess include:

        - History of self-injurious behavior
        - Coping mechanisms (e.g., maladaptive strategies such as cutting)
        - Emotional dysregulation or inability to manage distress
    - **Substance Abuse**: Risk factors to assess include:
        - Current substance use and patterns of abuse
        - History of overdose, severe withdrawal, or impaired functioning due to substance use
        - Co-occurring mental health disorders
        - Impact of substance use on physical and mental health
    - **Psychosis or Impaired Reality Testing**: Includes:
        - Delusions or hallucinations that affect judgment or behavior
        - Command hallucinations or belief in delusions related to violence or harm
    - **Environmental Risks**: Includes factors such as:
        - Unsafe living conditions (e.g., homelessness, domestic violence, or abusive environments)
        - Financial instability that may lead to further emotional distress or unsafe behavior
        - Lack of social support or family involvement
4. **Use of Standardized Tools and Interviews:**
    - Clinicians may utilize structured assessment tools and risk screening instruments to enhance the reliability and validity of the risk evaluation. Commonly used tools may include:
        - **Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS)**
        - **Substance Abuse Screening** tools to assess substance use risk
5. **Interventions and Safety Planning:**
    - **Safety Plans**: Based on the results of the risk assessment, the clinician will develop a safety plan that addresses identified risks. This may include creating a crisis plan, discussing coping strategies, or identifying emergency contacts. The safety plan will be shared with the client and updated as necessary.
    - **Referrals**: For clients at high risk for self-harm, suicide, or violence, referrals to higher levels of care may be necessary, such as inpatient psychiatric treatment, psychiatric evaluation, or crisis intervention services.
    - **Family Involvement**: With the client's consent, relevant family members or significant others may be involved in the treatment and safety planning process to help monitor and support the client's well-being.
6. **Documentation:**
    - **Comprehensive Documentation**: All findings from the risk assessment, including identified risks and protective factors, will be documented clearly and thoroughly in the client's electronic health record (EHR) or paper chart.
    - **Treatment Plan Updates**: The risk assessment will inform the development or adjustment of the client's treatment plan, including specific interventions for managing identified risks.
    - **Confidentiality**: All risk assessment information will be kept confidential in accordance with **HIPAA** and state regulations, with appropriate disclosures made to ensure the safety of the client and others, as necessary.
7. **Monitoring and Follow-up:**

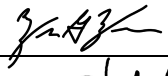
- Clinicians will monitor changes in risk status throughout treatment and adjust interventions as necessary. Follow-up risk assessments will be conducted regularly, especially during times of crisis, treatment transition, or following significant life changes.

Policy Review and Quality Assurance:

- This policy will be reviewed annually by the Clinical Leadership Team to ensure it remains aligned with best practices, regulatory requirements, and client needs.
- Clinical supervisors will review risk assessments as part of regular clinical case reviews to ensure consistency and quality of care.

Approved by: William G. Wagner, Executive Director
CREATED: 1.13.20 UPDATE 11.12.2O24

Signature:

Item	*Date*	*Signature*
Executive Director	11/15/2024	
Deputy Director	11/14/2024