

Comprehensive Opioid Risk Assessment and Stratification Worksheet

Patient Name _____

DOB: _____

Date of Risk Assessment: _____

About Comprehensive Opioid Risk Assessment and Stratification

Effective opioid risk assessment goes beyond screening tools. While opioid risk screening tools like the ORT or SOAPP-R can help flag risk for opioid use disorder (OUD), they are not designed to identify and assess all opioid-related risks, and Medicare coverage determinations recognize that these tools are only one part of an overall risk assessment. A thorough risk assessment also considers medical and psychiatric history, medications, social context, past drug testing, and behavioral patterns. Relying solely on opioid screening tools can miss key risks—and lead to preventable opioid-related patient harm. In addition to opioid risk screening tools that assess risk of substance abuse and diversion, this worksheet includes additional opioid-related risk factors derived from the literature that may be relevant when assessing overall opioid-related risk. This worksheet is designed to help providers efficiently organize the patient information that is part of their overall risk assessment and is intended to complement, rather than replace, the use of clinical judgment during the opioid risk assessment process.

Note the CDC 2022 Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Pain:

*Risk stratification tools (e.g., Opioid Risk Tool, SOAPP-R, etc.) show "limited and variable accuracy for classification of patients as at low or high risk for opioid use disorder or misuse"... Clinicians ...should not overestimate the ability of available risk stratification tools to rule out risks of long-term opioid therapy."*¹ Clinical judgment remains essential.

What Risks Should You Consider?

Risk for substance abuse or diversion is important—but other risks should be assessed. **Other opioid-related risks include accidental or unintentional overdose, falls, accidents and other injuries, and respiratory depression due to co-prescribed medications or co-morbid medical conditions.**²

Check and consider **ALL** the following that apply to this patient:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Current CNS Depressant Meds (e.g., benzodiazepines, gabapentin, pregabalin, sedatives/sleep meds, multiple opioids, anti-psychotics, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical, Emotional, or Sexual Abuse/Trauma |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleep Apnea, COPD, or Significant Lung Disease | <input type="checkbox"/> Depression, Anxiety, PTSD, ADHD, or other major Psych Dx |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal or Family Hx of Alcohol or Substance Abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Opioid Risk Screening Tool (circle) ORT, SOAPP-R, other Opioid Risk Screening Score _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discharged from Previous Pain Practice(s) for Cause | <input type="checkbox"/> History of Overdose (accidental or intentional) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inconsistent Definitive Drug Test Result(s) in the past | <input type="checkbox"/> Aberrant Drug-Related Behavior (e.g. multiple early refill requests, unauthorized dose escalation, "meds from friends," self-reported drug use, lost meds, other concerning behavior) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kidney or Liver Impairment | <input type="checkbox"/> Concern for Drug-Drug Interactions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memory Impairment/Cognitive Dysfunction | <input type="checkbox"/> Inconsistent PDMP report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Risk of Falls (i.e., elderly, balance, muscle relaxers, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Medically Fragile |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Relevant Patient Information: | <input type="checkbox"/> MME >20/day |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Current Alcohol Use |
| _____ | |

Based on your comprehensive clinical evaluation and this information, what is your **Overall Risk Assessment** for the patient?

High Risk

Moderate Risk

Low Risk

1 Dowell D, Ragan KR, Jones CM, Baldwin GT, Chou R. CDC Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Pain - United States, 2022. MMWR Recomm Rep. 2022;71(3):1-95. Published 2022 Nov 4. doi:10.15585/mmwr.rr7103a1

2 See, e.g., <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-warns-about-serious-breathing-problems-seizure-and-nerve-pain-medicines-gabapentin-neurontin?utm>