

MIMIND TOOLS

Weapons Safety Protocol

1 - Complete a Risk Assessment at the initial evaluation and at all subsequent encounters.

Initiate this protocol for all patients regardless of assigned risk factor.

2 - Identify if weapons are in the home

- Obtain patient's agreement to identify all weapons (firearms and stashes of medications) and agree to their removal.
- Have patient identify a support person with correct phone number and address.
- Have patient sign a release form allowing you to contact the support person or document the patient's verbal consent.

3- Establish an individual plan for weapons removal and safety

If the patient agrees to weapons removal:

- Contact support person with patient in the room to implement plan for weapons removal.
- Secure agreement of support person to call back the same day that weapons have been safely removed.
- Instruct support person to speak directly with therapist/provider or call after hours psychiatry number to confirm removal.
- Return of weapons or ammunition to the home is never recommended.
- Do not direct patients or the support person to bring any weapons to patient care sites.

If the patient does not agree to weapons removal:

- If patient refuses removal of weapons, but agrees to allow communication with a support person, educate the support person regarding the risks of weapons availability and the need to continue to encourage the patient to allow weapons removal.
- If patient refuses removal of weapons and does not agree to allow communication with a support person, educate the patient regarding the risk of suicide with weapons availability. Ensure that weapons removal is discussed at every encounter and the content of the conversation is documented. Discuss the use of a gun safe with a support person with access.

4- Re-evaluate risk at each meeting. Always document all of the above in the patient record