Decision Tree for Investigators – Whether to Include Questions about Suicidal Ideation in Research

**Step 1.** Is obtaining this information from subjects necessary/important to the research?

If **No**…

Remove question(s) regarding thoughts of suicide from study instrument or use another instrument.

If **Yes**…

**Step 2.** Present hypothesis and rationale for why inclusion of suicidality questions is necessary in protocol (Purpose and/or other sections).

**Step 3.** Decide whether individual responses indicating positive responses to suicide-relevant items will be (a) identifiable and (b) assessed.

If **No** (to one/both of above)

Justify in protocol why such individual identification and/or assessment is not necessary/feasible. Include in subject materials resource referral information (e.g., mental health, crisis intervention services).

If **Yes** (to one/both of above)

Describe how individuals will be identified/link to responses. Explain timing, method, and training for suicidality risk assessment, and provide a detailed safety plan in protocol (Risks section).

**Note:** For more detail, see [Suicidal Ideation in Protocols](#) guidance. Should you have any questions in this regard, you may contact OPHS staff at ophs@berkeley.edu or 510-642-7461.