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.