



Providers' SIQ Data Collection Protocols

Background

Second Wind Fund uses the Suicidal Ideation Questionnaire Junior (SIQ-JR) for all children over eight years old. The SIQ-JR is an extensively researched, thoroughly validated survey around suicidal ideation. In rare instances, you may need to read parts of the questionnaire to clients. Please do not utilize the SIQ for children under 8 years old.

Completed surveys will serve a dual purpose—to help you in your course of treatment with the client, as well as us in our overall evaluation of the SWF program. These two purposes are discussed more below.

When working with SWF referrals it is up to the provider to administer the SIQ only to youth if they deem it is clinically appropriate. Likewise, there is no obligation for a youth to complete the SIQ if they choose not to do so. When a provider deems it clinically appropriate SWF requests that SIQs are administered using the following protocol.

SIQ-JR Administration Protocols

When to Administer

Please do your best to administer the test at the following sessions with your client:

1. 1st session (preferably at the start of the session—feel free to meet with them a few minutes before they fill out the survey to establish a minimum comfort level if you feel that that is appropriate in a given situation).
2. 5th session (preferably at the end of the session).
3. 12th session or the last session (preferably at the end of the session), whatever session “number” that may be.

Additional Notes

If you know the client will not complete 12 sessions follow the below instructions on when to administer the “last” SIQ

- a) If a client visits you for only two sessions, do not administer a survey on the second “last” session.
- b) If a client visits you three or four times, you may administer the survey on the third or fourth session and count that as the survey for “last” session, even if they did not make it to a fifth session.
- c) If a client returns to you after an extended time away (for instance, they may have seen you for 8 sessions a year ago and want to now visit for 2 or 3 more sessions for a “booster shot”), do not administer the survey. A new set of survey administrations

should only be given if the client is given a new referral number, which only occurs in rare circumstances.

If you are unable to administer the test at the preferred time (i.e. either before or after the session), please still try to do it at another point in that session. If you are unable to administer during the session, you can do it during the next session.

How to Administer SIQ-JR

Each provider will initially be given 3 individual SIQ-JR surveys, and group practices with more than five providers will be sent 6.

In-Person Sessions

When the time comes to administer the SIQ, please have the youth fill out an SIQ-JR in a place where you're not directly present in the youth's line of sight, but easily available for questions.

Telehealth Sessions

If you are seeing the youth virtually, you may ask the youth the questions on the SIQ and record it on the form to submit or if you have the capacity to send the form ahead of time or during session to be filled out independently you may do that. Please ensure that answers are marked and submitted on a physical copy of the SIQ-JR for reimbursement.

Please give the student the following instructions, but please do *not* introduce this as a “suicide questionnaire”:

“Here’s a survey about your thoughts that will help me understand what your thinking is like. It should only take 5 minutes, 10 at most. Many youth all over the country have filled out this form. There are no right or wrong answers; please just give honest answers. Your personal information will stay confidential within the Second Wind Fund program.”

Beyond that, please do not give further instruction unless there are other logistical concerns that crop up, or unless the student has a specific question.

For confidentiality, please put the SWF referral number and date on the top of the survey. Do not list the youth’s name or other identifying information.

After SIQ Administration

Thank the youth for filling out the survey honestly. If possible, before the youth leaves, try to do a quick eye-scan of the survey, not for analysis or understanding but rather to ensure that the survey has been filled out completely. If there are incomplete answers, please note to the student the incomplete answer and invite them to answer the question(s) if they unintentionally did not respond. If they do not wish to respond to the incomplete answer, do not “push” them to do so.

After they have left, at your convenience, please feel free to review their answers for your own treatment purposes. Please submit the completed SIQ with the youth’s referral number and date when you submit claims. There is a section where you can attach a scan or picture. Below are instructions for scoring the SIQ if you would like to utilize the SIQ for your own treatment. Second Wind Fund will score SIQs when

they are received, so there is no need to score them if you do not need it in your own practice.

Miscellaneous Protocols

Please do not make copies of any unused surveys. **When you run out of SIQ forms, please contact Second Wind Fund for additional SIQ forms. We do not have rights to a digital form, so they will be mailed to the address we have on file.**

Optional Information - Scoring the SIQ Survey, Potential Invalidation and Follow-up

You are not required to score the completed SIQ forms, as SWF will do this as part of our research. If you are interested in the scoring, here are the details.

In order to consider an SIQ-JR questionnaire valid 13 of the 15 items must be completed.

Below is information for scoring each column.

“Almost every day:” 6 points

“Couple of times a week:” 5 points

“About once a week:” 4 points

“Couple of times a month:” 3 points

“About once a month:” 2 points

“I had this thought before but not in the past month:” 1 point

“I never had this thought”: 0 points.

The possible range is 0-90 on the SIQ-JR.

The survey designers note that for evaluative purposes, SIQ-JR questions 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, and 9 are to be reviewed as “Critical Items.” These questions are marked because of their possible nature as indicators of potency for more serious self-destructive behavior.

According to the SIQ Professional Manual, a cutoff score may be used to judge the severity of suicidal thoughts. Based on statistical analysis conducted during previous extensive studies, the manual suggests that an adolescent who scores at or above a raw score of 31 on the SIQ-JR “should be referred for further evaluation of potentially significant psychopathology and suicide risk.”

The manual is careful to note that as with most psychological tests, the cutoff score is rarely totally accurate in terms of indicating a clinical level of significant pathology. A more liberal cutoff score could be used: 23 on the SIQ-JR. These more liberal scores would include adolescents at or above the 84th percentile in a standardized sample.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the program staff at program@thesecondwindfund.org.

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