

ESSEX PARTNERSHIP UNIVERSITY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

**FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN PLACING PATIENTS
ON OBSERVATIONS**

In addition to the antecedents and warning signs given in Appendix 2 the following may give an indication that observation above the general level should be considered.

Use the least intrusive level of observation necessary, balancing the service user's safety, dignity and privacy with the need to maintain the safety of those around them.

Give the service user information about why they are under observation, the aims of observation, how long it is likely to last and what needs to be achieved for it to be stopped.

- History of previous suicide attempts, self-harm or attacks on others.
- Hallucinations, particularly voices suggesting harm to self or others.
- Paranoid ideas where the service user believes that other people pose a threat.
- Thoughts or ideas that the service user has about harming themselves or others.
- Threat controls override symptoms.
- Past or current problems with drugs or alcohol.
- Recent loss.
- Poor adherence to, or non-compliance with, medication programmes.
- Marked changes in behaviour or medication.
- Known risk indicators.