



# The Golden Thread

## The Ongoing Assessment Process

## What is the Assessment Process?

The assessment is an ongoing process of evaluating an individual's treatment needs and progress throughout the entire treatment process

# The Assessment Process is like a Flipbook



## The relationship between the Assessment Process and The Golden Thread

The Golden Thread was a term coined in discussing continuity of treatment. Thus, it refers to a seamless movement of treatment documentation starting with the initial assessment, creating the individual service plan, moving through progress notes and monthly individual service plan reviews, leading up to and including discharge from services.

Elements of the  
“Golden Thread”  
in the Clinical  
File

- ▶ Initial Assessment
- ▶ Individual Service Plan (ISP)
- ▶ Progress Notes
- ▶ Individual Service Plan Review (ISPR)
- ▶ Discharge Summary

# Initial Assessment

Begin with a complete and thorough assessment of the individual identifying their needs and barriers.

- ▶ Support the Risk Rating in each dimension.
- ▶ Identify the barriers that need to be addressed e.g. the problem.
- ▶ Identify individual recovery goals.

# Individual Service Plan

- ▶ Identify Assessed Needs that have been prioritized.
- ▶ Use these Prioritized Assessed Needs to inform the Individual Service Plan e.g. Problems, Goals and the approaches that accomplish the Objectives.

## Progress Notes (group notes)

- ▶ Assess individual response to each session and how it reflects progress or identifies continued barriers in the Progress Notes.

Data: Subjective and Objective

Assessment: Progress towards  
overcoming barriers and  
accomplishing Goals

Plan: Specific needs being addressed

# Individual Service Plan Review

- ▶ Assess progress on Goals and Objectives of open Individual Service Plans and overall progress in treatment.
- ▶ Review and support the Risk Rating in each dimension.
- ▶ Review and support overall placement.

## Discharge Summary: Discharge when services at the current level of care are no longer needed

- ▶ Assess progress on all Individual Service Plans as it applies dimensionally.
- ▶ Assess overall progress in the treatment as informed by Progress Notes and Individual Service Plan Reviews.
- ▶ Identify barriers that will need to be resolved in the next level of care as informed by the entire clinical file.

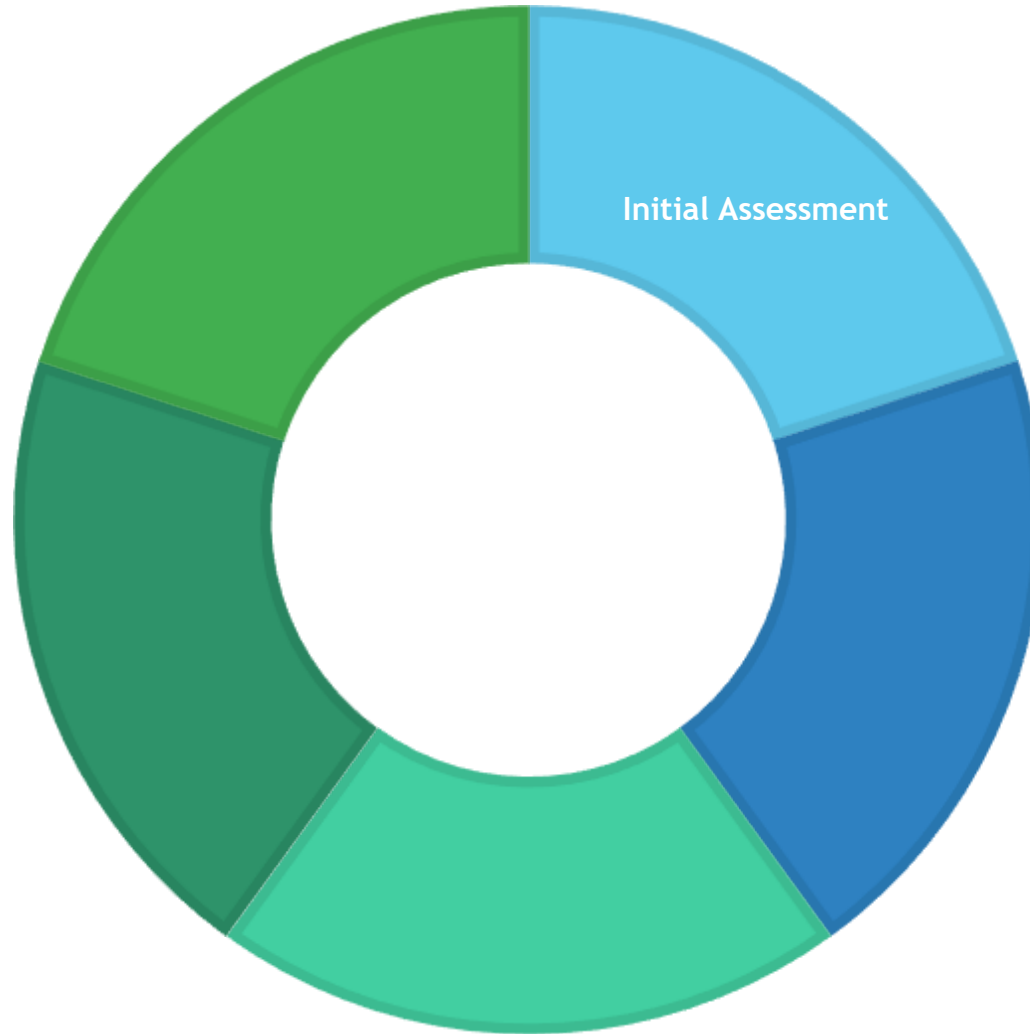
# “Moderate Progress”

## ■ Show the Progress

- Progress towards individual and common treatment goals:
- Reduction in barriers toward recovery e.g. reduction in risk:
- Changes or progress noted from any prior documentation
- Mr. Doe is more responsive in group and is less resistant to the possibility of changing or stopping his substance use.

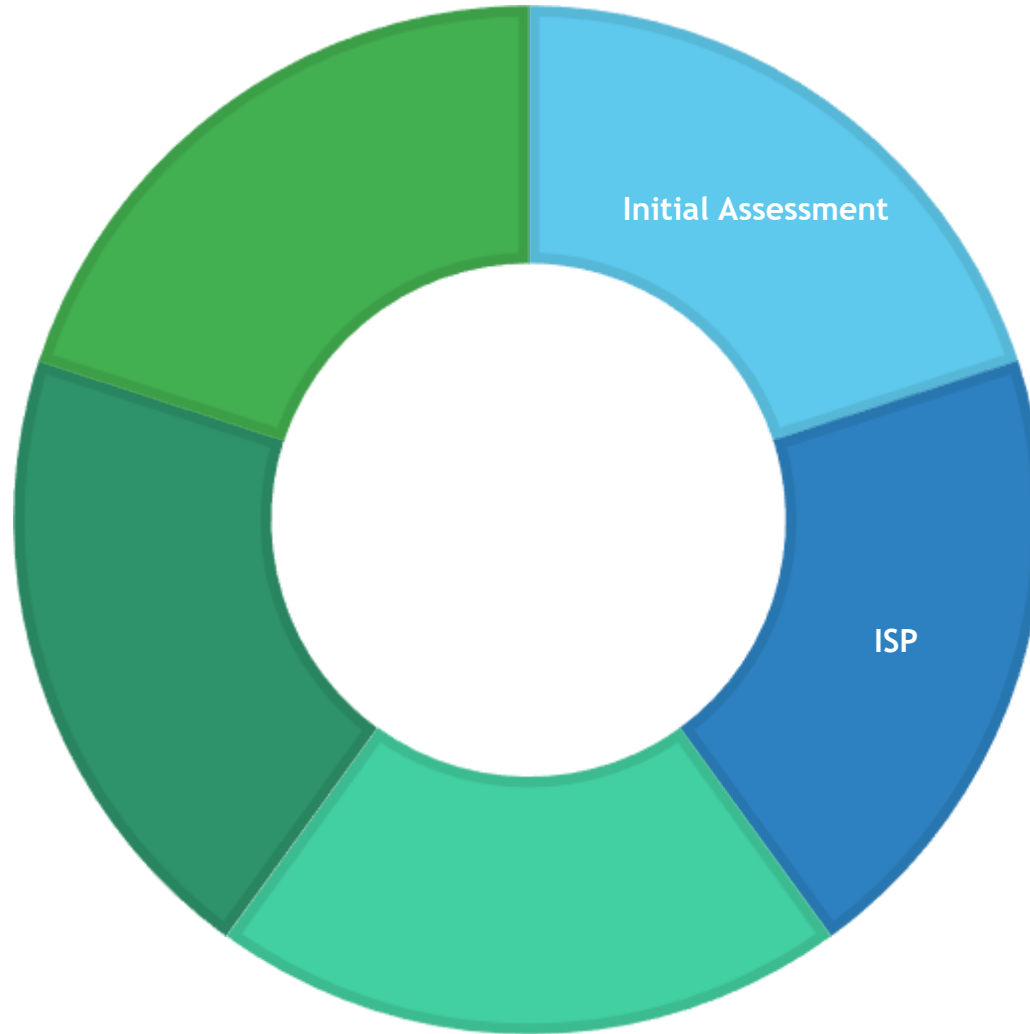
## THREAD THE DOCUMENTS

The initial assessment identifies what needs to be addressed in the ISP. It gives us a baseline to measure progress when assessing future progress.



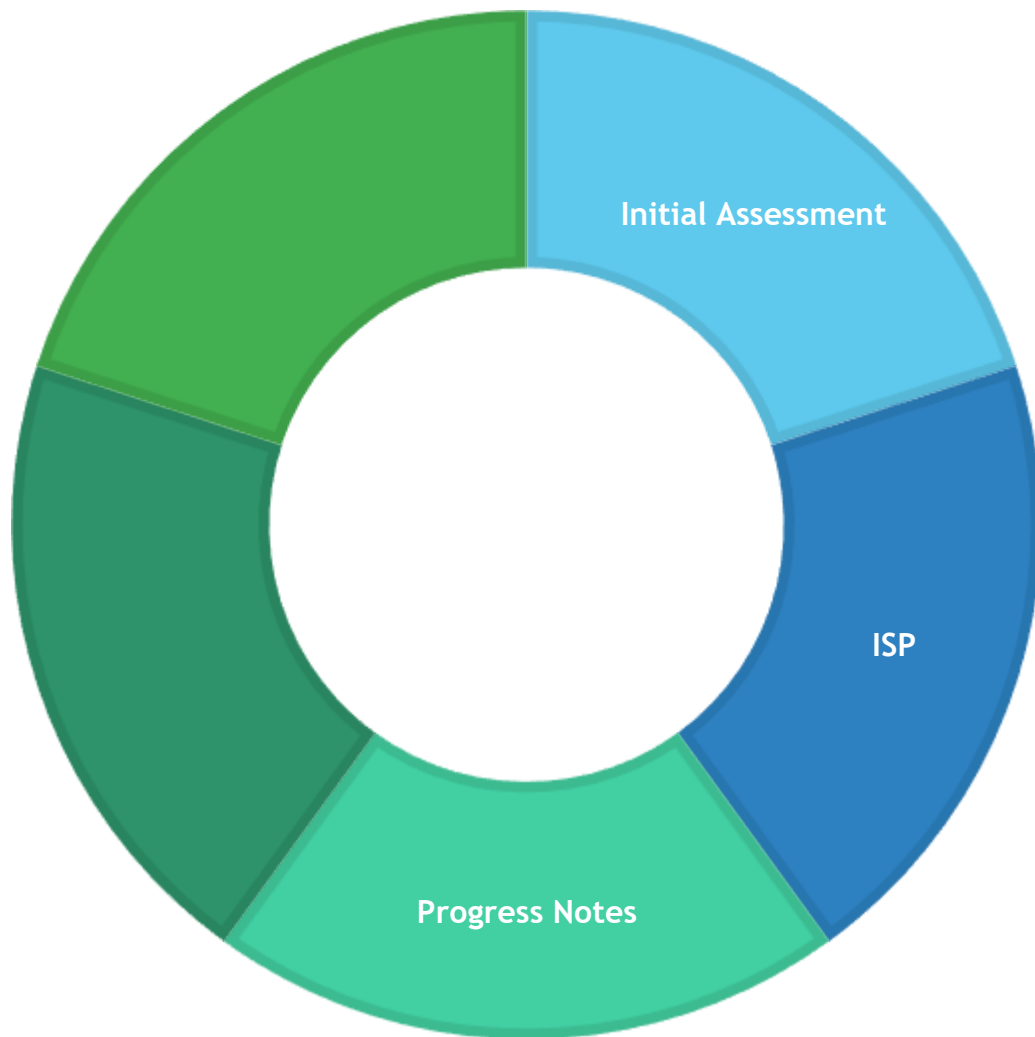
## THREAD THE DOCUMENTS

The ISP is first driven by barriers identified in the assessment. It gives us a measurable baseline when assessing individual progress



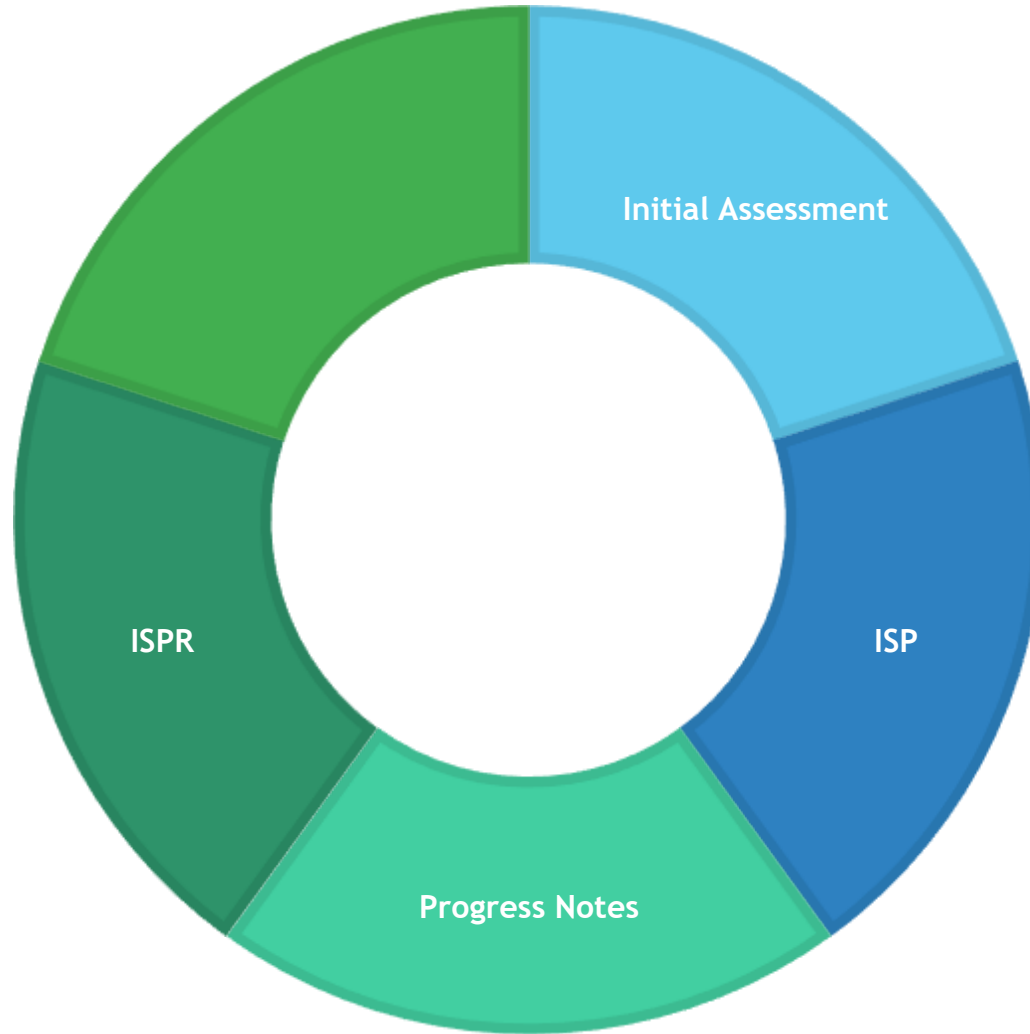
## THREAD THE DOCUMENTS

Progress notes help us to assess an individual's progress as it happens. We can document significant or even subtle changes as they happen in real time. They help to inform the regular reviews of individual progress AKA ISPRs



# THREAD THE DOCUMENTS

The ISPR is a review of the current ISP. It also reviews and assesses the individual's progress to inform the placement decision and support a continued stay or discharge.



# THREAD THE DOCUMENTS

The discharge summary is the final assessment of individual progress. It is informed mainly by the ISPRs and Clinical Staffing to determine a recommendation following the current treatment episode.

