

FACILITATED DISCUSSION: STANDARD CARE PROTOCOL FOR PEOPLE WITH SUICIDE RISK

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Standard Care Elements for People with Suicide Risk*

- 1. Identify Suicide Risk** using a standardized screening assessment
- 2. Enhance Safety** for those with increased risk
 - Safety Planning
 - Reducing Access to Lethal Means
- 3. Refer to Specialized Care** or provide treatment
- 4. Provide Supportive Contacts**

*National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention: Transforming Health Systems Initiative Work Group. (2018). *Recommended standard care for people with suicide risk: Making health care suicide safe*. Washington, DC: Education Development Center, Inc.

Suicide Protocol Template*

ASSESSMENT AND ENHANCE SAFETY

Office Protocol for Suicidal Patients – Office Template

Post in a visible or accessible place for key office staff.

If a patient presents with suicidal ideation or suicidal ideation is suspected and detected with screening questions ...

- ▶ _____ should be called/paged to assist with suicide risk assessment (e.g. physician, mental health professional, telemedicine consult, etc.).
- ▶ _____ should be called/paged to assist with collaborative safety planning.
- ▶ Identify and call patient's support person in the community (e.g. family member, pastor, mental health provider, other support person).

*Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education Mental Health Program (WICHE MHP) & Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC). (2017). Suicide prevention toolkit for primary care practices. A guide for primary care providers and medical practice managers (Rev. ed.). Boulder, Colorado: WICHE MHP & SPRC.

Suicide Protocol Template*

SPECIALIZED CARE AND CONTACTS

If patient requires hospitalization ...

▶ Our nearest Emergency Department or psychiatric emergency center is _____

▶ Phone # _____

▶ _____ will call _____ to arrange transport.
(Name of individual or job title) (Means of transport [ambulance, police, etc.] and phone #)

Backup transportation plan: Call _____

▶ _____ will wait with patient for transport.

Documentation and follow-up ...

▶ _____ will call ED to provide patient information.

▶ _____ will document incident in _____
(Name of individual or job title) (e.g. medical chart, suicide tracking chart, etc.)

▶ Necessary forms/instructions/chart-flagging materials are located _____

▶ _____ will follow-up with ED to determine disposition of patient.
(Name of individual or job title)

▶ _____ will follow-up with patient within _____
(Name of individual or job title) (Time frame)

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Discussion

- Have a suicide protocol?
- What does it address?
- Challenges and lessons learned?