

Suicide Prevention in Healthcare

Change is possible

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Public Health Problems

- 2018 deaths among all ages

- Influenza and pneumonia: ~55,000 deaths a year = 150 per day
 - Among 10 to 24-year-olds: ~241 deaths a year = 4 per week



- Motor vehicle accidents: ~39,000 deaths = 108 deaths a day
 - Among 10 to 24-year-olds: ~7,000 deaths = 19 deaths a day



- Suicide: ~ 48,000 deaths = 132 deaths a day
 - Among 10 to 24-year-olds: ~ 6,800 deaths = 18 deaths a day



CDC, 2018



Systemic Support for Healthcare Settings

Support broad screening practices in all settings

Training for all levels of staff

Systemic approaches to suicide safer care across the organization

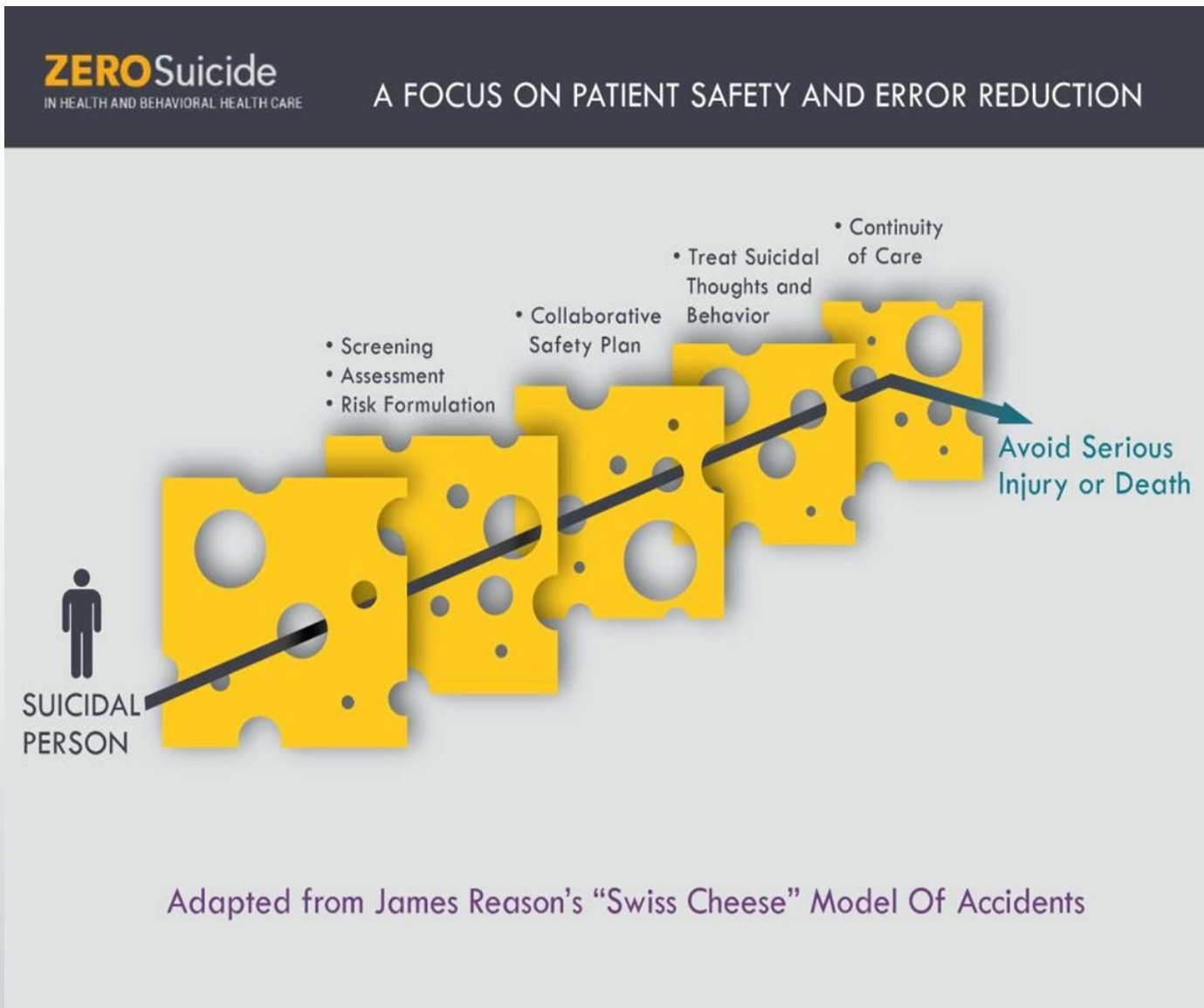
Reimbursement for screenings , assessments and safety planning

Why Focus on Health Care Settings?

- 84% of those who die by suicide have a health care visit in the year before their death.
- 92% of those who make a suicide attempt have seen a health care provider in the year before their attempt.
- Almost 40% of individuals who died by suicide had an ED visit, but not a mental health diagnosis.

Luoma, J.B., Martin, C.E., & Pearson, J.L. (2002). Contact with mental health and primary care providers before suicide: A review of the evidence. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 159(6), 909-

Patient Safety and Error Reduction



The Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9)

The Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9)

Patient Name _____ Date of Visit _____

Over the past 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by any of the following problems?

	Not At all	Several Days	More Than Half the Days	Nearly Every Day
1. Little interest or pleasure in doing things	0	1	2	3
2. Feeling down, depressed or hopeless	0	1	2	3
3. Trouble falling asleep, staying asleep, or sleeping too much	0	1	2	3
4. Feeling tired or having little energy	0	1	2	3
5. Poor appetite or overeating	0	1	2	3
6. Feeling bad about yourself - or that you're a failure or have let yourself or your family down	0	1	2	3
7. Trouble concentrating on things, such as reading the newspaper or watching television	0	1	2	3
8. Moving or speaking so slowly that other people could have noticed. Or, the opposite - being so fidgety or restless that you have been moving around a lot more than usual	0	1	2	3
9. Thoughts that you would be better off dead or of hurting yourself in some way	0	1	2	3

Column Totals _____ + _____ + _____

Add Totals Together _____

10. If you checked off any problems, how difficult have those problems made it for you to
Do your work, take care of things at home, or get along with other people?

☐ Not difficult at all ☐ Somewhat difficult ☐ Very difficult ☐ Extremely difficult

PHQ-9 modified for Adolescents (PHQ-A)

Name: _____ Clinician: _____ Date: _____

Instructions: How often have you been bothered by each of the following symptoms during the past two weeks? For each symptom put an "X" in the box beneath the answer that best describes how you have been feeling.

	(0) Not at all	(1) Several days	(2) More than half the days	(3) Nearly every day
1. Feeling down, depressed, irritable, or hopeless?				
2. Little interest or pleasure in doing things?				
3. Trouble falling asleep, staying asleep, or sleeping too much?				
4. Poor appetite, weight loss, or overeating?				
5. Feeling tired, or having little energy?				
6. Feeling bad about yourself – or feeling that you are a failure, or that you have let yourself or your family down?				
7. Trouble concentrating on things like school work, reading, or watching TV?				
8. Moving or speaking so slowly that other people could have noticed? Or the opposite – being so fidgety or restless that you were moving around a lot more than usual?				
9. Thoughts that you would be better off dead, or of hurting yourself in some way?				

In the past year have you felt depressed or sad most days, even if you felt okay sometimes?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If you are experiencing any of the problems on this form, how **difficult** have these problems made it for you to do your work, take care of things at home or get along with other people?

☐ Not difficult at all ☐ Somewhat difficult ☐ Very difficult ☐ Extremely difficult

Has there been a time in the past month when you have had serious thoughts about ending your life?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you EVER in your WHOLE LIFE, tried to kill yourself or made a suicide attempt?

☐ Yes ☐ No

***If you have had thoughts that you would be better off dead or of hurting yourself in some way, please discuss this with your Health Care Clinician, go to a hospital emergency room or call 911.*

Office use only:

Severity score: _____

Modified with permission from the PHQ (Spitzer, Williams & Kroenke, 1999) by J. Johnson (Johnson, 2002)



NIMH TOOLKIT

Suicide Risk Screening Tool

Ask Suicide-Screening Questions

Ask the patient:

1. In the past few weeks, have you wished you were dead? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. In the past few weeks, have you felt that you or your family would be better off if you were dead? ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. In the past week, have you been having thoughts about killing yourself? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Have you ever tried to kill yourself? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how? _____

When? _____

If the patient answers **Yes** to any of the above, ask the following acuity question:

5. Are you having thoughts of killing yourself right now? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe: _____

Next steps:

- If patient answers "No" to all questions 1 through 4, screening is complete (not necessary to ask question #5). No intervention is necessary. (*Note: Clinical judgment can always override a negative screen).
- If patient answers "Yes" to any of questions 1 through 4, or refuses to answer, they are considered a **positive screen**. Ask question #5 to assess acuity.
 - ☐ "Yes" to question #5 = **acute positive screen** (imminent risk identified)
 - Patient requires a **STA** safety/full mental health evaluation.
 - Patient **cannot leave until evaluated for safety**.
 - Keep patient in sight. Remove all dangerous objects from room. Alert physician or clinician responsible for patient's care.
 - ☐ "No" to question #5 = **non-acute positive screen** (potential risk identified)
 - Patient requires a **brief suicide safety assessment** to determine if a **full** mental health evaluation is needed. Patient **cannot leave until evaluated for safety**.
 - Alert physician or clinician responsible for patient's care.

Provide resources to all patients

- 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK (8255). En Español 1-888-628-9454
- 24/7 Crisis Text Line: Text "HOME" to 741-741

asQ Suicide Risk Screening Toolkit

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH (NIMH)



NIMH



NIMH TOOLKIT: EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Script for nursing staff

Ask Suicide-Screening Questions

Say to parent/guardian:

"National safety guidelines recommend that we screen all kids for suicide risk. We ask these questions in private, so I am going to ask you to step out of the room for a few minutes. If we have any concerns about your child's safety, we will let you know."

Once parent steps out, say to patient:


"Now I'm going to ask you a few more questions."
Administer the ASQ and any other questions you want to ask in private (e.g. domestic violence).

If patient screens positive, say to patient:

"I'm so glad you spoke up about this. I'm going to talk to your parent and your medical team. Someone who is trained to talk with kids about suicide is going to come speak with you."

If patient screens positive, say to parent/guardian:

"We have some concerns about your child's safety that we would like to further evaluate. It's really important that he/she spoke up about this. I'm going to talk to your medical team, and someone who is trained to talk with kids about suicide is going to come speak with you and your child."



NIMH TOOLKIT: EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT
Parent/guardian flyer

Ask Suicide-Screening Questions

Your child's health and safety is our #1 priority. New national safety guidelines recommend that we screen children and adolescents for suicide risk.


During today's visit, we will ask you to step out of the room for a few minutes so a nurse can ask your child some additional questions about suicide risk and other safety issues in private.

If we have any concerns about your child's safety, we will let you know.

Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for youth. Please note that **asking kids questions about suicide is safe**, and is very important for suicide prevention. Research has shown that asking kids about thoughts of suicide is not harmful and **does not put thoughts or ideas into their heads**.

Please feel free to ask your child's doctor if you have any questions about our patient safety efforts.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

asQ Suicide Risk Screening Toolkit
 NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH (NIMH)
 

Assessing Risk

Can and does happen in primary care settings-appropriate level of care

Helpful to speak the same language and understand the assessment process

The primary care visit focus becomes the risk for suicide



Response Protocol

Ask questions that are in bold.

Past Month

Ask Questions 1 and 2	YES	NO
1. Have you wished you were dead or wished you could go to sleep and not wake up?		
2. Have you had any actual thoughts of killing yourself?		
If YES to 2, ask questions 3, 4, 5 and 6. If NO to 2, go directly to question 6		
3. Have you been thinking about how you may do this? <i>e.g. "I thought about taking an overdose but I never made a specific plan as to when, where or how I would actually do it...and I would never go through with it."</i>		
4. Have you had these thoughts and had some intention of acting on them? <i>as opposed to "I have the thoughts but I definitely will not do anything about them."</i>		
5. Have you started to work out or worked out the details of how to kill yourself? Do you intend to carry out this plan?		
6. Have you ever done anything, started to do anything, or prepared to do anything to end your life? <i>Examples: Collected pills, obtained a gun, gave away valuables, wrote a will or suicide note, took out pills but didn't swallow any, held a gun but changed your mind or it was grabbed from your hand, went to the roof but didn't jump; or actually took pills, tried to shoot yourself, cut yourself, tried to hang yourself, etc.</i>	Lifetime	
	Past 3 Months	
If YES to question 6, ask: Was this in the past 3 months?		

Schedule
follow-up

Address Lethal
Means, Safety
Planning, Schedule
Follow-up

Evaluate
Hospitalization,
Address Lethal
Means, Safety
Planning, Schedule
Follow-up

The Minimum WHAT (to do)

BEFORE THEY LEAVE YOUR OFFICE

- Suicide Prevention Lifeline or Crisis Text Line in their phone
—1-800-273-8255 and text the word “Hello” to 741741
- Address guns in the home and preferred method of suicide
- Give them a caring message (NowMattersNow.org ↗ “More”)



Safety Plan

NowMattersNow.org Emotional Fire Safety Plan

Select boxes that fit for you. Add your own. Form is based on research and advice from those who have been there. Visit nowmattersnow.org/safety-plan for instructions (coming soon). Do not distribute. ©2018 All Rights Reserved (V 18.05.27)

ON FIRE

Direct advice for overwhelming urges to kill self or use opioids

— **Shut it down** —

Sleep (no overdosing). Can't sleep? Cold shower or face in ice-water (30 seconds and repeat). This is a reset button. It slows everything way down.

— **No Important Decisions** —

Especially deciding to die. Do not panic. Ignore thoughts that you don't care if you die. Stop drugs and alcohol.

— **Make Eye Contact** —

A difficult but powerful pain reliever. Look in their eyes and say "Can you help me get out of my head?" Try video chat. Keep trying until you find someone.

IN A FIRE

Things I Know How To Do for Suicidal Thoughts and Urges to Use (practice outside of crisis situations)

<input type="checkbox"/> Visit NowMattersNow.org (guided strategies)	<input type="checkbox"/> Opposite Action (act exactly opposite to an urge)
<input type="checkbox"/> Paced Breathing (make exhale longer than inhale)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mindfulness (choose what to pay attention to)
<input type="checkbox"/> Call/Text Crisis Line or A-Team Member (see below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mindfulness of Current Emotion (feel emotions in body)
<input type="checkbox"/> "This makes sense: I'm stressed and/or in pain"	<input type="checkbox"/> "I can manage this pain for this moment"
<input type="checkbox"/> "I want to feel better, not suicide or use opioids"	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice thoughts, but don't get in bed with them
<input type="checkbox"/> Distraction:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Patient Safety Plan

Patient Safety Plan Template

Step 1: Warning signs (thoughts, images, mood, situation, behavior) that a crisis may be developing:	
1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
Step 2: Internal coping strategies – Things I can do to take my mind off my problems without contacting another person (relaxation technique, physical activity):	
1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
Step 3: People and social settings that provide distraction:	
1. Name _____	Phone _____
2. Name _____	Phone _____
3. Place _____	4. Place _____
Step 4: People whom I can ask for help:	
1. Name _____	Phone _____
2. Name _____	Phone _____
3. Name _____	Phone _____
Step 5: Professionals or agencies I can contact during a crisis:	
1. Clinician Name _____	Phone _____
Clinician Pager or Emergency Contact # _____	
2. Clinician Name _____	Phone _____
Clinician Pager or Emergency Contact # _____	
3. Local Urgent Care Services _____	
Urgent Care Services Address _____	
Urgent Care Services Phone _____	
4. Suicide Prevention Lifeline Phone: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)	
Step 6: Making the environment safe:	
1.	_____
2.	_____

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The one thing that is most important to me and worth living for is:

Questions ?

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