



After an Attempt: A Guide for Taking Care of Your Family Member After Treatment in the Emergency Department

<u>Setting</u>	<u>Type of Program</u>	<u>NSSP Goals Addressed</u>
Emergency Departments	Awareness	7.1, 7.8

Program Description

Originally developed by the National Alliance on Mental Illness and endorsed by the American College of Emergency Physicians, this 15-page brochure provides family members of those who've attempted suicide with practical information regarding the likely assessment, treatment, and follow-up the family member will receive during and after their visit to the emergency department. Subjects addressed include:

- What Happens in the Emergency Department
- What the Emergency Department Needs to Know: How You Can Help
- Next Steps after the Emergency Department
- What you Need to Know
- Moving Forward
- Links to Additional Resources

Program Objectives

Those who read the brochure should:

1. Have increased understanding of Emergency Department procedures regarding assessment and treatment of those who attempt suicide.
2. Have increased knowledge of how they can help reduce the risk of subsequent suicide attempts by family members who've attempted suicide.

Implementation Essentials

- Brochures should be provided to emergency department staff for distribution along with the following National Suicide Prevention Lifeline brochures that address the needs of those who attempt suicide and emergency department medical staff:
 - *After an Attempt: A Guide for Taking Care of Yourself After Your Treatment in the Emergency Department.*
 - *After an Attempt: A Guide for Medical Providers in the Emergency Department Taking Care of Suicide Attempt Survivors.*

Contact Information

This brochure was originally developed by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (www.nami.org) in partnership with the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (www.sprc.org) under a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). It is now sponsored by the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org).

Costs

The *After an Attempt: A Guide for Taking Care of Your Family Member After Treatment in the Emergency Department* brochure is available for free. It can be ordered or downloaded from SAMHSA's National Mental Health Information Center at <http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/publications/allpubs/SVP-0159/>

*The content of practices listed in Section III (Adherence to Standards) of the SPRC/AFSP Best Practices Registry address specific goals of the *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention* and have been reviewed by a panel of three suicide prevention experts and found to meet standards of accuracy, safety, and programmatic guidelines. Practices were not reviewed for evidence of effectiveness. Additional information about the Best Practices Registry can be found at www.sprc.org.

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