



“Is Your Patient Suicidal?” Emergency Department Poster and Clinical Guide

Setting
Emergency Departments

Type of Program
Awareness

NSSP Goals Addressed
2.3, 5.1, 7.1, 7.2

Program Description

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center developed the “*Is Your Patient Suicidal?*” *Emergency Department Poster* to provide emergency department personnel with information on recognizing and responding to acute suicide risk. The accompanying guide, “*Suicide Risk: A Guide for ED Evaluation and Triage*”, provides additional clinical guidance for ED personnel. The poster and clinical guide were developed by an expert panel composed of suicide researchers, emergency department nurses and physicians, psychiatrists, and psychologists. Editing and design was guided by focus groups of relevant stakeholders. Also contributing to the poster and guide were the American Association of Suicidology, the Emergency Nurses Association, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, the American College of Emergency Physicians, and the American Association for Emergency Psychiatry.

Poster size is 11” X 17”. Poster content includes (1) signs of acute suicide risk, (2) key risk factors for suicide, and (3) questions that can be asked of those who might be at risk for suicide. The clinical guide is contained on a standard 11” X 8.5” sheet with information on the front and back. Clinical guide content includes information about (1) assessing suicide risk, (2) recommended interventions, (3) discharge protocols, (4) suggested documentation, and (5) procedures to use when a patient elopes.

Program Objectives

ED personnel who read the poster and clinical guide should have:

1. Increased awareness of the high prevalence of suicide risk among their patients, regardless of their presenting chief complaint(s).
2. Increased knowledge of suicide warning signs ED patients may exhibit.
3. Increased knowledge of the types of questions clinicians can ask to elicit suicidality.
4. Increased knowledge of clinical tools that can improve management of suicidal patients (these include triage and treatment planning, discharge checklist, documentation guide, and elopement management protocols).
5. Increased comfort to ask patients, with seemingly unrelated chief complaints, about suicide.

Implementation Essentials

- The ED poster should be used in conjunction with the clinical guide.

Contact Information

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Costs

The “*Is Your Patient Suicidal?*” *Emergency Department Poster and Clinical Guide* can be ordered from the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) through the ENA website at <http://admin.ena.org/store/>The cost of the poster and guide is \$7 for ENA members and \$10 for non-ENA members. Free PDF copies of the poster and guide are available at <http://library.sprc.org>

*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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