



A Resource Guide for Implementing the Joint Commission's 2007 Patient Safety Goals on Suicide



Setting
Healthcare

Type of Program
Protocols & Guidelines

NSSP Goals Addressed
2.3, 2.4

Program Description

Developed by Screening for Mental Health, Inc., the *Resource Guide for Implementing the Joint Commission's 2007 Patient Safety Goals on Suicide Featuring SAFE-T* addresses the Joint Commission requirement that healthcare organizations better identify those at risk of suicide. The *Resource Guide* summarizes steps for (1) conducting a comprehensive suicide assessment, (2) estimating suicide risk, and (3) developing treatment plans and interventions responsive to the assessed risk level. For each implementation expectation of the Joint Commission requirements, the corresponding SAFE-T steps are identified and described in detail.

Program Objectives

The *Resource Guide* will help healthcare organizations:

1. Facilitate implementation of the Joint Commission's patient safety goal on suicide.
2. Identify individuals at risk for suicide, while under the care of a clinician, or following discharge.
3. Protect and plan the care of individuals at-risk for suicide.
4. Institute a protocol for conducting a comprehensive suicide assessment, estimating suicide risk and developing treatment plans and interventions responsive to the risk level of patients.
5. Apply the basic SAFE-T model to the Joint Commission's Patient Safety Goal on Suicide.

Program Development

The *Resource Guide* was developed by Screening for Mental Health, Inc., to help healthcare organizations better identify patients at risk for suicide, a 2007 addition to Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Goals. The SAFE-T protocol was developed previously by Screening for Mental Health with funding from the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) as a suicide assessment protocol for mental health care providers. It is consistent with the American Psychiatric Association Practice Guidelines for the assessment and treatment of patients with suicidal behaviors.

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Costs

The *Resource Guide* is available for free. It can be downloaded from the Screening for Mental Health website: www.mentalhealthscreening.org/events/ndsd/JCAHO.aspx

For more information about Joint Commission goals and requirements visit www.JointCommission.org

*The content of programs listed in Section II (Expert and Consensus Statements) 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 importance, likelihood of meeting objectives, accuracy, safety, congruence with prevailing knowledge, and appropriateness of development process. Programs 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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