

Date

Name

Address

Address

Dear (Mental Health Professional Name):

We at (Name of practice) are implementing changes in our practice to help us better identify and manage patients who are at elevated risk for suicide. We are training our staff to better recognize the common warning signs of suicide and to screen patients for suicidal ideation when they present with known risk factors. As we step up our vigilance for suicide risk, we may be reaching out to you for help in assessing and/or treating behavioral health problems, including suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

A Toolkit developed by the National Suicide Prevention Resource Center (www.sprc.org) and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, Mental Health Program (<http://www.wiche.edu/Mentalhealth>) is assisting us with this practice enhancement. The toolkit suggests we share with you a newly developed pocket card developed by mental health professionals for mental health professionals assessing suicide risk. It was developed by the nation's leading mental health experts in the field. Although you may already know the information on the card, having it concisely presented in an organized way may be useful. (We will also be using a pocket card from the toolkit developed specifically for primary care professionals.)

We would like to work with you to assure the best access for our patients to your specialized knowledge and expertise. Since collaborative care requires strong communication, I would like to propose that we set up a meeting to share perspectives and develop a model for collaboration. I will be contacting your office in the near future to explore this possibility.

Sincerely yours,

P.S. As you may know, The National Strategy for Suicide Prevention recommends that health professionals across the board receive specialized training in assessing and managing people at risk for suicide. We are pleased to be engaged in this education and training. In case you or any of your mental health colleagues are interested in trainings tailored especially for them we are including some sources of such trainings on the attachment which we received as part of the Tool Kit.

Nationally Disseminate Trainings on Suicide Assessment and Management
for Mental Health Professionals

Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk: Core Competencies for Mental Health

Professionals. A one-day workshop for mental health professionals and employee assistance professionals that focuses on competencies that are core to assessing and managing suicide risk. The curriculum is a collaboration of the [American Association of Suicidology](http://www.aasud.org/) and the Suicide Prevention Resource Center. For information go to <http://www.sprc.org/traininginstitute/amr/clincomp.asp> or contact Ms. Megan Mathis, SPRC Training Institute, at 202-572-3789 or mmathis@edc.org. (Offered by the National Suicide Prevention Resource Center.)

Recognizing and Responding To Suicide Risk: Essential Skills for Clinicians. A two-day advanced interactive training augmented by pre-workshop, web-based assessment and post workshop mentoring. For information go to <http://www.suicidology.org/web/guest/education-and-training/rrsr> or contact Paul at the American Association of Suicidology, prothenberg@suicidology.org. (Offered by American Association of Suicidology.)

QPRT: Suicide Risk Assessment and Management Training. (QPRT stands for Question/Persuade/Refer/Treat.) A 10 - hour course available either on-line or face-to-face for professionals who may evaluate, assist, counsel or treat potentially suicidal persons - a tool that is uniquely designed to gather critical information about a person's status at intake and to establish a safety and intervention plan. For more information to go <http://www.qprinstitute.com>. (Offered by QPR Institute)

Suicide Care: Aiding life alliances. A one-day seminar that introduces frontline caregivers and professionals to advanced clinical practices beyond suicide first aid care. Available primarily in Canada. For information go to: <http://www.livingworks.net/SC.php>. (Offered by Living Works.)