

Physician Education Express

Suicide Prevention – Provider Responsibilities



Audience: Physicians, Residents, Nurse Practitioners, and Physician Assistants

Education Level: Yellow

December 2022

Summary

In conjunction with the Joint Commission’s standards, IU Health revised its policy for Suicide Prevention in Non-Behavioral Health Areas. This policy provides standards for the screening, assessment, reassessment and safety planning, education, outpatient referrals, and community resources of patients who are identified as potentially having suicidal ideation while being cared for within non-behavioral health areas in IU Health.

Ask Suicide Questions (ASQ) Screener

Risk Level According to ASQ	Provider Responsibilities
Imminent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For patient safety, be alert that nursing will initiate suicide precautions Place Behavioral Health (BH) Consult Do not complete discharge summary until risk level is assessed (See Table 2)
Non-acute positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be alert, nursing may initiate constant suicide precautions Place Behavioral Health Consult or conduct C-SSRS with SAFE-T as applicable Do not complete discharge summary until risk level is assessed (See Table 2)
Negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action necessary

Please note: ASQ will be conducted by the nurse, and the result will be communicated to the provider

Highlights

Key Links:

- [Suicide Prevention for Non-Behavioral Health Policy](#) (updated 12/6/2022)
- [SAFE-T with C-SSRS Module](#)
- [Safety Planning Module](#)

SAFE-T Protocol with C-SSRS and Provider Interventions

Patient will be reassessed by the provider/behavioral health clinician as to the need for continued suicide precautions as the patient’s presentation or environmental circumstances change

Risk Level	Description	Interventions
High Suicide Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suicidal Ideation with intent or intent with plan in past month Suicidal behavior within past 3 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Order High Risk Suicide Precautions Order Behavioral Health Assessment 1 on 1 continuous observation until patient risk reduces Follow-up and document outcome of psychiatric evaluation Develop Safety Plan for discharge Consider an outpatient referral Provide crisis line information Provide community resource list
Moderate Suicide Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suicidal ideation with method, without plan, intent, or behavior in past month Suicidal behavior more than 3 months ago Multiple risk factors and few protective factors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Order Moderate Risk Suicide Precautions Optional Close Observation Develop Safety Plan for discharge Consider an outpatient referral Provide crisis line information Provide community resource list
Low Suicide Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wish to die or suicidal ideation without method, intent, plan, or behavior Modifiable risk factors and strong protective factors No reported history of suicidal ideation or behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide crisis line information Provide community resource list Consider an outpatient referral