

The Essentials of Suicide Prevention in the Emergency Department

1. Educate Yourself About the Five Core Suicide Prevention Interventions for Emergency Departments

Go to: <http://www.sprc.org/news/preventing-suicide-emergency-department>

The page provides a very brief overview of what emergency departments can do. It then identifies resources for ED staffs:

- Watch the 10-minute video, [Patients at Risk of Suicide: What Emergency Departments Need to Know](#).
- Download: [Caring for Adult Patients with Suicide Risk: A Consensus Guide for Emergency Departments](#).

[Some individuals might prefer the online course (approximately two hours) as a preferred modality for reviewing this information: [Preventing Suicide in Emergency Department Patients](#) It is based on the Consensus Guide. Unfortunately, it is not narrated.]

2. Review Additional Resources, as desired

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center has a variety of other documents related to suicide prevention in the emergency department, some of which expand on the material in the Consensus Guide:

<http://www.sprc.org/settings/emergency-departments>

3. Decision-making

Leadership within the emergency department, in consultation with behavioral health staffs or other parties, should determine which interventions they would like to implement. Coordination with county human service departments is encouraged.

Mental Health America of Wisconsin may be able to provide technical assistance and consultation, including linking you with organizations in your area which have implemented similar changes within their system. Ask for the Zero Suicide Coordinator:

Phone: 414-276-3122

Email: info@mhawisconsin.org