COVID-19: ADULT SUICIDE RISK SCREENING PATHWAY

Medically able to answer questions?

YES

Administer ASQ
Assess whether patient is in a private place

YES on any question 1-4?

YES

YES to Q5?

YES

NEGATIVE SCREEN
Exit Pathway

NO

Screen at next visit

Screening criteria:
1. New patient
2. Existing patient who has not been screened within the past year
3. Patient had a positive suicide risk screen the last time they were screened
4. Clinical judgement dictates screening

BSSA outcome (three possibilities)

LOW RISK
No further evaluation needed at this time

FURTHER EVALUATION NEEDED
Mental health referral needed as soon as possible via telehealth services or in person

IMMINENT RISK
Patient has acute suicidal thoughts and needs an urgent full mental health evaluation

Non-acute Positive Screen: Conduct Brief Suicide Safety Assessment (BSSA)
Detailed instructions about the BSSA can be found at www.nimh.nih.gov/ASQ

PATIENT TO INITIATE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS
1
Until able to obtain full mental health evaluation via telehealth or in person

1 If available, family/friends can assist with implementing immediate SAFETY PRECAUTIONS
Patient or family/friend to remove or safely store dangerous items. Provider can ask patient for permission to contact patient's family/friend to instruct on how to implement safety precautions and to call the provider if worried about the patient.

SAFETY PLANNING
- Create safety plan for potential future suicidal thoughts, including identifying personal warning signs, coping strategies, social contacts for support, and emergency contacts. Detailed instructions about safety planning can be found at https://www.sprc.org/resources-programs/patient-safety-plan-template
- Discuss lethal means safe storage and/or removal with patient (e.g., ropes, pills, firearms, belts, knives)
- Provide Resources: 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK (8255), En Español: 1-888-628-9454, 24/7 Crisis Text Line: Text "START" to 741-741

If suicide risk becomes more acute, instruct patient/family/friends to contact outpatient healthcare provider to re-evaluate need for ED visit.

Schedule all patients who screen positive for a follow-up visit in 3 days to confirm safety and determine if a mental health care connection has been made. Future follow-up primary care appointments should include re-screening patient, reviewing use of safety plan, and assuring connection with mental health clinician.

Provider calls/is called by patient. Screen all patients who meet any of the screening criteria.

Outpatient Primary Care & Specialty Clinics: via Phone

You may contact the provider directly at...