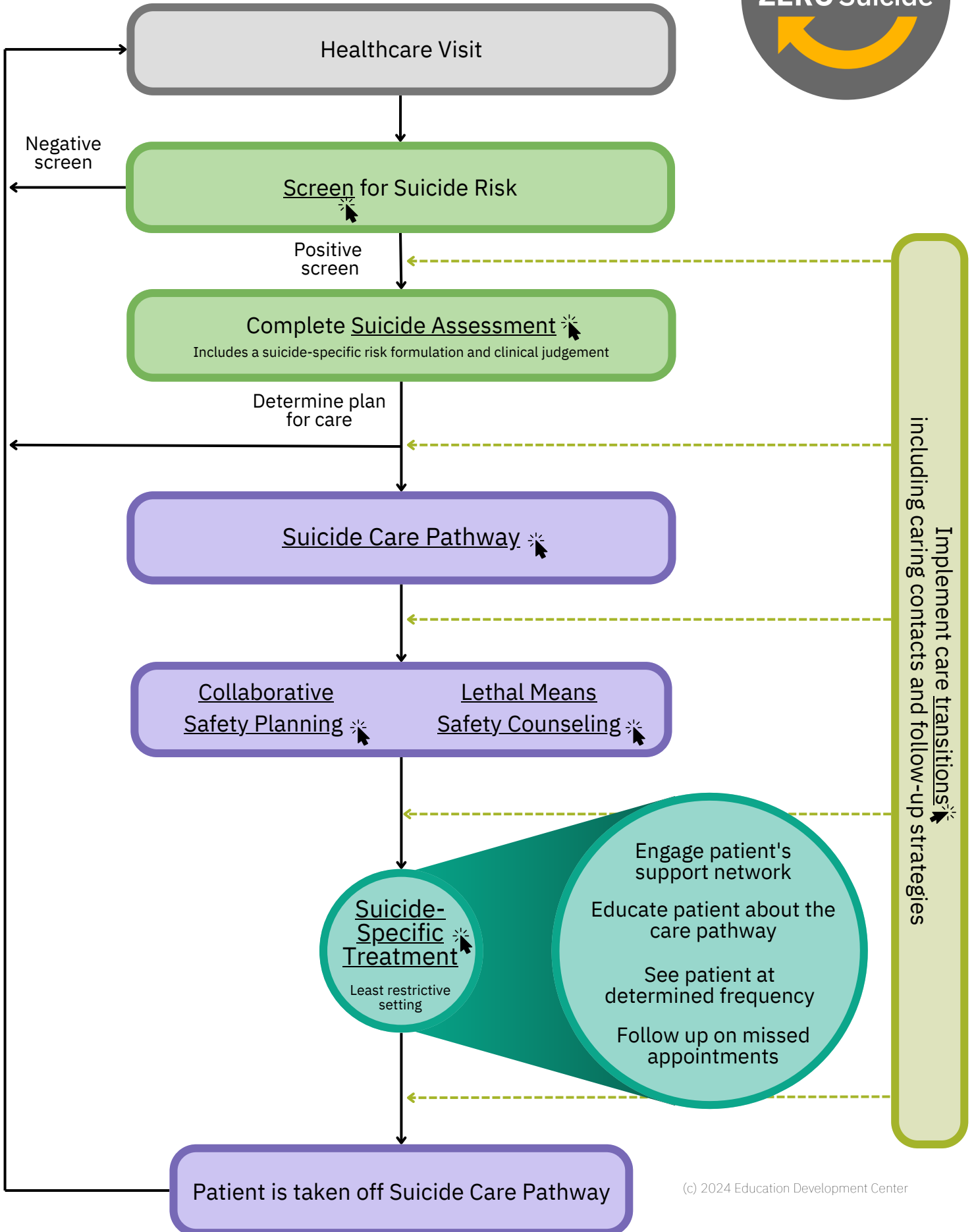


# Suicide Care Pathway





# ZERO Suicide

## Care Pathway Companion Guide

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A key component of Zero Suicide is the creation of the Suicide Care Pathway which includes four elements: **Identify, Engage, Treat, and Transition**. Grounded in organizational policies and protocols, the care pathway guides the system's response and clearly outlines the care an individual at risk can expect to receive. Each organization's Suicide Care Pathway will look different based on the setting, services provided, and available resources both internally and externally.

The accompanying graphic provides a visual representation of the care pathway. As you design your care pathway, consider the following questions:

### Data Collection and Quality Improvement

- How is data collected? Can data collection be integrated into the EHR?
- How is the data shared with staff and other interested parties?
- How is data used to inform the improvement process?
- How do we know we are doing what we intend to do?
- How do we provide culturally-responsive suicide care?

### Documentation

- Are there ways to integrate workflow into the electronic health record (EHR)?
- How will we document each part of the care pathway – screening and assessment, safety planning and lethal means safety, treatment and care transitions?

### Collaboration

- How will we engage individuals with lived experience in the design/delivery of the care pathway?
- What community partnerships are needed to support safety and treatment of individuals with suicide risk? Would a Memorandum of Understanding be helpful?

### Training

- Who needs to be trained to deliver each practice or intervention?
- How will we support training through practice, observation, supervision, and other on-going opportunities for learning?

# Additional Considerations for Designing a Zero Suicide Pathway

<p><b>Suicide Risk Screening</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What prompts a screening (i.e. intake, every appointment, awareness of elevated risk)?</li> <li>• Who is trained to do the screening (i.e. nurse, case manager)?</li> <li>• What evidence-based tool is used? How do we define a positive screen?</li> <li>• How is it documented and are all providers able to see the results?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risk Assessment &amp; Formulation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When an individual screens positive, what is the process for getting them a suicide risk assessment?</li> <li>• Who is trained to do the assessment (i.e. nurse, licensed therapist)?</li> <li>• What evidence-based tool is used?</li> <li>• How is risk formulated and how does it inform plan of care?</li> <li>• How is it documented and are all providers able to see the results?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Safety Planning &amp; Lethal Means Counseling</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What safety plan template is used?</li> <li>• Who completes the safety plan and who provides lethal means safety?</li> <li>• Who follows up and when? What if the plan for lethal means safety cannot be confirmed?</li> <li>• How will we train staff to facilitate safety planning and lethal means safety in a way that is collaborative and involves chosen support persons?</li> <li>• How often is the safety plan and lethal means safety reviewed?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Care Pathway</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What makes a person eligible for the care pathway?</li> <li>• How are individuals informed about the care pathway (i.e. What information is provided? How is it shared?)</li> <li>• How will the individual’s experiences and preferences be considered when developing their suicide care pathway?</li> <li>• How do we identify individuals on the care pathway in the EHR?</li> <li>• How are individuals on the care pathway reviewed?</li> <li>• What determines when an individual leaves the care pathway?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Treat</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What evidence-based, suicide-specific treatments are available and how are individuals referred/transitioned to those treatments?</li> <li>• How do we deliver treatment in the least restrictive setting?</li> <li>• Besides suicide-specific treatment, what other clinical interventions are available either in your organization or through a community partner?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Transition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are examples of care transitions in our system and between systems?</li> <li>• What care strategies already exist to support safety during transitions?</li> <li>• What more can we do?</li> <li>• How can we involve peer support in the delivery of care transition services?</li> </ul>

For more information visit [ZeroSuicide.edc.org](https://ZeroSuicide.edc.org)