Suicide Prevention FAQs (ED)

How do we decide who should be screened?

All patients 10 years of age and older who are developmentally appropriate and medically capable. Document "NO" if the patient is not able to be screened in the moment; however, screening is expected prior to discharge/transfer from Lurie Children's. Patients less than 10 years of age should be screened if they present with a clinical concern.

If a patient has a prior suicide attempt but answers no to all of the other questions, does the patient need a safe room, belongings removed, and 1:1 observation?

To determine this, the nurse must ask 1 additional question from the ASQ: "*When was the attempt"?*

- If the attempt was **more than a year ago,** the patient does **not** require suicide precautions prior to BSSA completion. Note that precautions may be ordered based on the outcome of the BSSA.
- If the attempt was **less than a year ago, suicide precautions must be ordered.**

What's New with suicide precautions?

Instant orders! Suicide precautions will be automatically ordered when a patient screens positive in the ASQ. These orders will appear with other nursing orders. The order defaults to the most restrictive precautions and may be modified by the provider after assessment to allow patient-specific privileges.

NOTE: You **MUST** click "**YES"** to the **Policy Acknowledgement** for instant orders.

How do I explain the rationale and role of the 1:1 observer?

We care for our patients' physical and mental wellbeing during their stay. The role of the 1:1 observer is to help provide a safe environment and support the patient and family during their stay. Transparency and honesty are essential.

Who can update the suicide precautions order?

Providers may modify the existing suicide precautions order to allow appropriate privileges. Nurses may advocate for changes based on clinical assessment.

Can patients with suicide precautions ordered have personal devices?

After the BSSA is completed, the Provider may modify the suicide precautions order set to allow patient-specific privileges. Until then, patients should remain on the most restrictive precautions.

Where can I find what should be stripped from a room for a patient that screens positive?

Refer to **Initial Room Check** located on Certified Nursing Assistant SharePoint.

Who needs a BSSA Completed?

Any patient who answers "yes" to any of the first four questions in the ASQ.

When does the BSSA have to be completed?

The BSSA is completed by providers once the patient is medically ready to meaningfully participate in the assessment.

Who is responsible for completing the BSSA?

Any provider, including APPs, Residents, Fellows, or Attendings. If the patient is ready to be transferred from ED or Procedural Area, the inpatient provider should complete the BSSA. A Psychiatry consult order for a full mental health evaluation may be placed for patients in lieu of BSSA completion.

Where can I see the BSSA?

The Suicide Risk Toolkit in Epic. The toolkit is a tab that can be "wrenched" into your standard view.

Can patients transfer between care areas/be admitted if the BSSA is not complete?

Yes. Patients may be admitted or transferred prior to BSSA completion; however, the BSSA must be completed prior to discharge.

How do I print the safety plan at discharge?

The Safety Plan should be added to discharge instructions by providers and will print with the AVS. RNs may also add the Safety Plan if it is completed (similar to adding a school or work note).

Do nurses have to review the safety plan with patients at discharge?

Yes. Nurses are the final point of contact for patients and families prior to discharge. Safety plans must be reviewed just like all other discharge instructions.

What is in the "Suicide Risk Toolkit" found in Epic?

The toolkit includes previous scores, BSSA, Safety Plans, & Resources.

What do the new icons mean?



Where can I find more information if questions arise about suicide screening/precautions?

Refer to the CCG specific to your area and the Suicide Risk Toolkit in Epic.

Suicide Prevention Algorithm (ED)

Suicide Prevention: Risk Identification and Interventions Administrative Policy