

# Suicide Screening Guidelines for Primary Care Providers

Screen for Depression - (See depression guidelines)

If positive continue

Screen for Suicidal Ideations



[Click here](#) for the Ask Suicide-Screening questions, its easy, quick and provides clear steps to follow.

Risk Assessment

[Click here for C-SSRS](#)

High Risk

Suicide attempt or persistent ideation with intent. Multiple risk factors. No protective factors, or protective factors are not currently relevant.

- Hospital Admission
- Suicide Precautions
- Observation

\*Clinical pearl: Being prepared beforehand is critical. Be sure to learn the warning signs of suicide and develop office protocols to implement in the case of an emergency.

Moderate Risk

Suicidal ideations with a plan, but no intent or behavior. Multiple risk factors present.

- Hospital Admission may be necessary
- Safety / Crisis Plan
- Lethal Means Counseling
- Risk Reduction
- Emergency/Crisis #'s

Low Risk

Thoughts of death with no plan, intent or suicidal behavior. Strong protective factors with few or modifiable risk factors.

- Referrals
- Emergency/Crisis #'s
- Symptom Reduction
- Education

[Click here](#) for a free and easy safety plan template. Be sure to assess if the patient has access to firearms or other lethal means. If you want further training [click here](#) for a free online self-paced courses.

## Terminology

Non-suicidal Self-Injurious Behavior (NSSI) (also known as self-harm): Self-directed, deliberate behavior resulting in injury or potential injury to oneself. No evidence implicit or explicit of suicidal intent. Some kids use NSSI as a way to reduce stress or as self punishment, however not with intentions of killing themselves. It is important to distinguish NSSI from suicidal

Other suicidal behavior and preparatory acts: Preparation or acts purposed toward making suicide attempt. For example buying a gun, or leaving suicide good bye note.

Suicide attempt: An act of self injury with at least some intent to die as a result. There does not need to be injury or harm, just the potential of such.

Interrupted suicide attempt: A person attempted to end their life, but is stopped by someone, or something else.

Aborted suicide attempt: The person takes steps to kill themselves, but then stops.