

# Suicidal Risk Screening & Assessment

## EVIDENCE REPOSITORIES

Evidence repositories are collections of best available resources and evidence (clinical guidelines, peer reviewed literature, systematic reviews, etc.), collated by our knowledge synthesis team and content advisors. This evidence repository is not intended to be an exhaustive list of resources for a topic, but rather a curated list of current, evidence-based resources, based on expert consensus of relevance and usability for a general emergency department setting. We search databases (Cochrane Library, PubMed, TRIP Database) and web search engines (Google, Google Scholar) to locate evidence. Additionally, hospital websites are browsed for guidance documents, such as clinical practice guidelines (CPG) for healthcare professionals.

Every effort is made to identify resources that are open access (i.e. publicly available, free of charge, not requiring a subscription).

More information about the creation of our evidence repositories can be found at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28537762/>

## CONTENT TEAM

Thank you to the following content experts and Knowledge Synthesis team who led the development of this evidence repository.

**Amanda Newton, PhD, RN**

Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, College of Health Sciences, Department of Pediatrics, University of Alberta

**Matthew Morrisette, MD, FRCPC**

Assistant Clinical Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, College of Health Sciences  
Department of Psychiatry, University of Alberta

**Stephen Freedman, MDCM, FRCPC**

Professor Department of Pediatrics, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary  
Professor Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Calgary  
Professor in Child Health and Wellness, Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation

**Laurence Katz, MD, FRCPC**

Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Manitoba  
Winnipeg Health Sciences Centre

**Liza Bialy, BSc, MPH**

Knowledge Synthesis Project Coordinator, Alberta Research Centre for Health Evidence,  
Department of Pediatrics, University of Alberta

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TREKK developed resources for healthcare providers and parents & families can be found [here](#)

## Clinical Guidelines

1. Zaleski ME, Johnson ML, Valdez AM, et al. [Clinical practice guideline: Suicide risk assessment](#). J Emerg Nurs. 2018;44(5):505.e1-.e33.
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3. Korczak DJ. Suicidal ideation and behaviour. Paediatr Child Health. 2015;20(5):257-64. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26175563/>.
4. American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. [Practice guideline for the assessment and treatment of patients with suicidal behaviors](#). Am J Psychiatry. 2003;160(11 Suppl):1-60.
5. American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. [Practice parameter for the assessment and treatment of children and adolescents with suicidal behavior](#). American academy of child and adolescent psychiatry. J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry. 2001;40(7 Suppl):24s-51s.

## Systematic Reviews

1. Thom R, Hogan C, Hazen E. [Suicide risk screening in the hospital setting: A review of brief validated tools](#). Psychosomatics. 2020;61(1):1-7.
2. Cwik MF, O'Keefe VM, Haroz EE. [Suicide in the pediatric population: Screening, risk assessment and treatment](#). Int Rev Psychiatry. 2020;32(3):254-64.
3. Belsher BE, Smolenski DJ, Pruitt LD, et al. [Prediction models for suicide attempts and deaths: A systematic review and simulation](#). JAMA Psychiatry. 2019;76(6):642-51.
4. DeCou CR, Schumann ME. [On the iatrogenic risk of assessing suicidality: A meta-analysis](#). Suicide Life Threat Behav. 2018;48(5):531-43.
5. Ambrose AJH, Prager LM. [Suicide evaluation in the pediatric emergency setting](#). Child Adolesc Psychiatr Clin N Am. 2018;27(3):387-97.
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8. Carter G, Milner A, McGill K, et al. [Predicting suicidal behaviours using clinical instruments: Systematic review and meta-analysis of positive predictive values for risk scales](#). Br J Psychiatry. 2017;210(6):387-95.

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9. Silverman MM, Berman AL. [Suicide risk assessment and risk formulation part i: A focus on suicide ideation in assessing suicide risk](#). Suicide Life Threat Behav. 2014;44(4):420-31.
10. Berman AL, Silverman MM. [Suicide risk assessment and risk formulation part ii: Suicide risk formulation and the determination of levels of risk](#). Suicide Life Threat Behav. 2014;44(4):432-43.
11. Ronquillo L, Minassian A, Vilke GM, Wilson MP. [Literature-based recommendations for suicide assessment in the emergency department: A review](#). J Emerg Med. 2012;43(5):836-42.
12. Wintersteen MB, Diamond GS, Fein JA. [Screening for suicide risk in the pediatric emergency and acute care setting](#). Curr Opin Pediatr. 2007;19(4):398-404.
13. Links PS, Gould B, Ratnayake R. [Assessing suicidal youth with antisocial, borderline, or narcissistic personality disorder](#). Can J Psychiatry. 2003;48(5):301-10.
14. Garrison CZ, Lewinsohn PM, Marsteller F, et al. [The assessment of suicidal behavior in adolescents](#). Suicide Life Threat Behav. 1991;21(3):217-30.

## Key Studies

1. DeVlyder JE, Ryan TC, Cwik M, et al. [Screening for suicide risk among youths with a psychotic disorder in a pediatric emergency department](#). Psychiatr Serv. 2020;71(2):205-8.
2. Cappelli M, Zemek R, Polihronis C, et al. [The HEADS-ED: Evaluating the clinical use of a brief, action-oriented, pediatric mental health screening tool](#). Pediatr Emerg Care. 2020;36(1):9-15.
3. Simon GE, Shortreed SM, Coley RY. [Positive predictive values and potential success of suicide prediction models](#). JAMA Psychiatry. 2019;76(8):868-9.
4. Lee A, Deevska M, Stillwell K, et al. [A psychosocial assessment and management tool for children and youth in crisis](#). CJEM. 2019;21(1):87-96.
5. Lanzillo EC, Horowitz LM, Wharff EA, et al. [The importance of screening preteens for suicide risk in the emergency department](#). Hosp Pediatr. 2019;9(4):305-7.
6. Inman DD, Matthews J, Butcher L, et al. [Identifying the risk of suicide among adolescents admitted to a children's hospital using the ask suicide-screening questions](#). J Child Adolesc Psychiatr Nurs. 2019;32(2):68-72.
7. Clark SE, Cloutier P, Polihronis C, Cappelli M. [Evaluating the heads-ed screening tool in a hospital-based mental health and addictions central referral intake system: A prospective cohort study](#). Hosp Pediatr. 2019;9(2):107-14.
8. Brahmabhatt K, Kurtz BP, Afzal KI, et al. [Suicide risk screening in pediatric hospitals: Clinical pathways to address a global health crisis](#). Psychosomatics. 2019;60(1):1-9.
9. Conway PM, Erlangsen A, Teasdale TW, et al. [Predictive validity of the Columbia-suicide severity rating scale for short-term suicidal behavior: A Danish study of adolescents at a high risk of suicide](#). Arch Suicide Res.

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14. Cappelli M, Gray C, Zemek R, et al. [The HEADS-ED: A rapid mental health screening tool for pediatric patients in the emergency department](#). *Pediatrics*. 2012;130(2):e321-7.
15. Ballard ED, Bosk A, Snyder D, et al. [Patients' opinions about suicide screening in a pediatric emergency department](#). *Pediatr Emerg Care*. 2012;28(1):34-8.
16. Baca-Garcia E, Perez-Rodriguez MM, Oquendo MA, et al. [Estimating risk for suicide attempt: Are we asking the right questions? Passive suicidal ideation as a marker for suicidal behavior](#). *J Affect Disord*. 2011;134(1-3):327-32.
17. Horowitz L, Ballard E, Teach SJ, et al. [Feasibility of screening patients with nonpsychiatric complaints for suicide risk in a pediatric emergency department: A good time to talk?](#) *Pediatr Emerg Care*. 2010;26(11):787-92.

## Other Studies

1. Alberta Health Services. [Suicide prevention, risk assessment & management](#). 2022.
2. National Institute of Mental Health. [ASQ ask suicide-screening questions toolkit](#). 2017.