



Collaborating on Safety Plans

Video:

Safety plans should be developed collaboratively with the person at risk of suicide to identify specific behaviors, actions, and situations that help them stay safe. It can be empowering for a person at risk of suicide to think through the sequence of events that can lead them toward suicide and determine ways to interrupt that pattern and move in a positive direction.

In this brief video, Vince Watts, MD, MPH, Director, VA Interprofessional Fellowship in Patient Safety, VA National Center for Patient Safety, provides some practical suggestions for helping an individual at risk develop a safety plan, and for gaining useful input from family members.

Recommended Resources

[CALM: Counseling on Access to Lethal Means \[1\]](#)

This free online course is designed to help mental health professionals counsel people at risk for suicide—and their families—on reducing access to lethal means.

[Zero Suicide website \[2\]](#)

This website provides information, resources, and tools for implementing Zero Suicide.

[Safety planning guide: A quick guide for clinicians \[3\]](#)

This guide shows how to work with patients at high risk for suicide to develop a safety plan.



[Patient safety plan template \[4\]](#)

A fill-in-the-blank template for developing a safety plan with a patient at increased risk for a suicide attempt.

[Safety plan treatment manual to reduce suicide risk: Veteran version \[5\]](#)

This manual describes a brief clinical intervention, safety planning, that can serve as a valuable adjunct to risk assessment.

[Safety planning intervention for suicide prevention \[6\]](#)

This free online course explains when to work with patients to create a safety plan and describes the steps involved in crafting one.

Links within this resource

[1] <https://sprc.org/resources-programs/calm-counseling-access-lethal-means>

[2] <https://sprc.org/resources-programs/zero-suicide-website>

[3] <https://sprc.org/resources-programs/safety-planning-guide-quick-guide-clinicians>

[4] <https://sprc.org/resources-programs/patient-safety-plan-template>

[5] <https://sprc.org/resources-programs/safety-plan-treatment-manual-reduce-suicide-risk-veteran-version>

[6] <https://sprc.org/resources-programs/safety-planning-intervention-suicide-prevention>



Suicide Prevention Resource Center

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