

# Inpatient Care Transitions

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GLS Grantees' Annual Meeting  
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# Overview

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- ✓ Background
- ✓ Practices and lessons learned from SPRC's Community of Practice
- ✓ New Hampshire – NAMI NH/New Hampshire Hospital
- ✓ Indiana - Community Health Network



# Suicide Prevention Resource Center

Promoting a public health approach to suicide prevention



The nation's only federally supported resource center devoted to advancing the *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention*.

# Background

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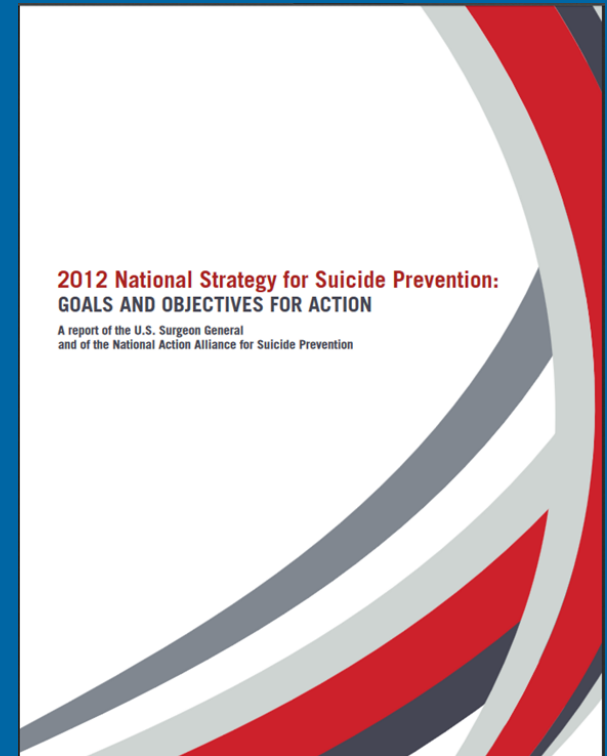


# 2012 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention

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## Objective 8.4:

- Promote continuity of care and the safety and well-being of all patients treated for suicide risk in emergency departments or hospital inpatient units.



# Suicide Rates Post-Discharge

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New York: (2012)

- ✓ Of 17% of suicide deaths in public mental health care classified as inpatient related, vast majority (85%) were within 30 days of discharge.
- ✓ < 72 hours post-discharge: 2 times as many suicide deaths as on inpatient units
- ✓ 72 hours-30 days post-discharge: almost 4 times as many deaths as on inpatient units

# High Risk Period

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- ✓ “The periods just after admission, just before discharge and in the first weeks subsequent to discharge are the times of highest risk across all age groups.” (Knesper, AAS & SPRC, 2010).
- ✓ In a study of almost 900,000 veterans treated for depression, Valenstein et al (2009) found that while all transitions were associated with increased risk , the highest risk was in the 12 weeks following discharge.

# SPRC Community of Practice, 2014-15

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- ✓ Broad focus on care transitions
- ✓ 26 member organizations/partnerships
  - ✓ GLS grantees:
    - ✓ State, tribal, campus
  - ✓ State Coordinators



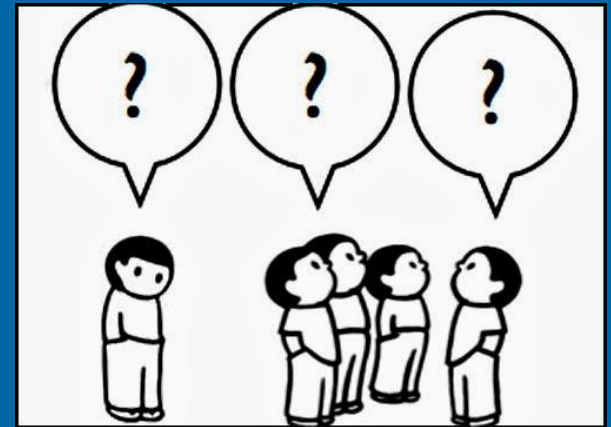




# Barriers to Starting a Follow-Up Program

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- ✓ Lack of staff to conduct follow-up activities
- ✓ Difficulty of communicating across systems
  - Releases of Information
- ✓ Liability concerns
- ✓ Staff attitudes towards attempt survivors



# Getting Initial Buy-In

- ✓ Relationships
- ✓ Framing:
  - Quality Improvement
  - Return on investment
- ✓ Examples
- ✓ Legislation/State policy
- ✓ \*The Joint Commission Sentinel Alert



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# Implementation



# Stabilization and Timing

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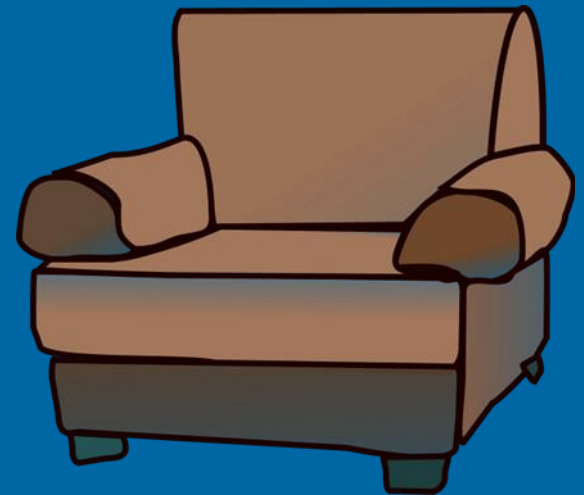
- ✓ Treatment visit set up before discharge
- ✓ Stabilization follow-up within one day
- ✓ First treatment appointment within 7 days post-discharge
- ✓ Additional follow-up after initial appointment(s)
  - Up to 70% never make it to 1<sup>st</sup> appointment or don't go to more than a few appointments (Knesper, AAS & SPRC, 2010)



# Follow-Up Format

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- ✓ Postcards
- ✓ Phone, text, telemental health
  - In between therapy sessions
- ✓ Home visit
  - Mobile crisis team
  - Peers
  - Outreach workers



# Additional Ways to Improve Post-Discharge Outcomes



# Safety Planning

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- ✓ Start to co-create plan at least 2 days prior to discharge
- ✓ Collaborative, skills-building
- ✓ Use a standardized template across the setting
- ✓ Outpatient plan differs from inpatient plan
- ✓ Communicate plan to family, supports



# Family Education

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- ✓ What to do if patient activates their Safety Plan
- ✓ Means safety
- ✓ Gatekeeper training / Warning Signs



# Peers

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- ✓ Peer support network
- ✓ Follow up
- ✓ Recovery movement
- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Respite centers
  - Run by certified peer support specialists



# Resources & Citations

Can postdischarge follow-up contacts prevent suicide and suicidal behavior? A review of the evidence. Luxton D, June J, Comtois, K (2013). *Crisis: The Journal of Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention*, Vol 34(1), 32-41.

Continuity of care for suicide prevention and research: Suicide attempts and suicide deaths subsequent to discharge from an emergency department or an inpatient psychiatry unit. Knesper DJ, American Association of Suicidology, & Suicide Prevention Resource Center. (2010). Newton, MA: Education Development Center, Inc.

Higher-risk periods for suicide among VA patients receiving depression treatment: prioritizing suicide prevention efforts. Valenstein M, Kim HM, Ganoczy D, McCarthy JF, Zivin K, Austin KL, Hoggatt K, Eisenberg D, Piette JD, Blow FC, Olfson M. (2009). *Journal of Affective Disorders*. 112(1-3):50-8.

Post-acute Crisis Text Messaging Outreach for Suicide Prevention: A Pilot Study. Berrouiguet S, Gravey M, Le Galudec M, Alavi Z, & Walter M (2014). Post-acute crisis text messaging outreach for suicide prevention: A pilot study. *Psychiatry research*, 217(3), 154-157.

Transition: Zero Suicide Toolkit. <http://zerosuicide.sprc.org/toolkit/transition>

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# Discussion

What are you doing in your grant to support **inpatient** care transitions / prevent further attempts, deaths, and rehospitalizations?