

## ASSESS FOR SAFETY AND SUICIDE RISK

\*\*\*If you need help call MO-CPAP @ 844-538-2279 or BHR\*\*\*

### IS SUICIDAL IDEATION PRESENT? Ask:

1. In the past few weeks, have you wished you were dead?
2. In the past few weeks, have you felt that you or your family would be better off if you were dead?
3. In the past week, have you been having thoughts about killing yourself?
4. Have you ever tried to kill yourself?

If answers “No” to all 4 questions,  
No need to further assess suicide risk.

### ENSURE SAFETY

- Is there adequate supervision and support?
- Recommend removal of lethal means
- Discuss emergency communication plan
  - BHR number (314)469-6644 or (800) 811-4760
  - Safe adult contact

If answers “Yes” to any question, **ASSESS FOR SUICIDE RISK:**  
Ask: Are you having thoughts about killing yourself right now?

If Yes, **REFER FOR MENTAL HEALTH INTAKE**

If No, Ask, What has prevented you from doing so? And further assess suicide risk- detailed plan, plan is feasible, prior attempts, substance abuse, no social support.

If history concerns you **REFER FOR MENTAL HEALTH INTAKE** or if history is reassuring, **ENSURE SAFETY.**

*There is no shame in sending a patient to intake even if they don't get admitted.*

You can call BHR (314)469-6644 or (800) 811-4760

Mercy Clinic Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, [\(314\) 251-6898](tel:3142516898)

CenterPointe-Stepping Stones Behavioral Health for Adolescents, (800) 345-5407

SSM Health Behavioral Health Urgent Care, (314) 344-7200

Hyland Behavioral Health Center, (314) 525-7275

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#### Sources:

\*Horowitz LM, Bridge JA, Teach SJ, Ballard E, Klima J, Rosenstein DL, Wharff EA, Ginnis K, Cannon E, Joshi P, Pao M. Ask Suicide-Screening Questions (ASQ): A Brief Instrument for the Pediatric Emergency Department. Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med. 2012;166(12):1170-1176.

[NIH asQ Suicide Risk Screening Tool](#)

Dr. Katie Plax, Division Chief of Adolescent Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine. Watch Dr. Plax demonstrate assessing for safety and suicide risk by accessing <http://wupaarc.wustl.edu/Resources> and clicking on videos “Addressing Suicidality” and “Addressing Suicidality and Referral”.