

**Overview: NPSG 15.01.01** Identify patients at risk for suicide.

Note: This requirement applies only to psychiatric hospitals and patients being treated for emotional or behavioral disorders in general hospitals.

**Why this standard is important to patient safety**

Suicide of a patient while in a staffed, round-the-clock care setting is a frequently reported type of sentinel event. Identification of individuals at risk for suicide while under the care of or following discharge from a health care organization is an important step in protecting these at-risk individuals.

**Elements of Performance**

1. Conduct a risk assessment that identifies specific patient characteristics and environmental features that may increase or decrease the risk for suicide.
2. Address the patient's immediate safety needs and most appropriate setting for treatment.
3. When a patient at risk for suicide leaves the care of the hospital, provide suicide prevention information (such as a crisis hotline) to the patient and his or her family.