

F8, Increasing Suicide Screening in a Pediatric Primary Care Clinic, Abstract

F8, Increasing Suicide Screening in a Pediatric Primary Care Clinic: A Quality Improvement Project, Abstract

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Session Title:

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Abstract

Background: Mental health in adolescents is a rising concern in the U.S., with 4.1 million adolescents reported having major depressive episodes, and only 41.6% seeking care. Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for 15–24-year-olds in the U.S. Half of adolescents that committed suicide were seen by a provider within four weeks of their death. The role of a primary care clinic is an essential area to identify adolescents at risk for suicide.

Purpose: Implement the use of the ASQ Toolkit and clinical pathway to identify and make referrals for adolescents at risk for suicide in a pediatric primary care clinic setting over an 8-week period.

Problem Statement: A pediatric primary care clinic screened for depression but lacked suicide screening and standardized follow up for adolescents with positive PHQ-9 screening.

Methods: The Ask Suicide-Screening Questions (ASQ) toolkit was utilized by administering the PHQ-9 and ASQ for adolescents ages 12 and above at well child visits. The PHQ-9 and ASQ screening tool is given to the adolescent upon arrival to the exam room. The provider reviews the results of the screening and determines best next steps with the assistance of the NIMH pathway, which was available in every exam room, and the quick tips on the back of the questionnaire. An updated referral and resource list was created to give to patients and families of crisis lines, therapists, and 24-hour care available to them in the area.

Results: Over an 8-week period, 49 patients were screened. 48 of the 49 patients were screened with both the PHQ-9 and ASQ. Of the patients that screened a 10 or higher on the PHQ-9, 6 of 7 were given referrals or resources. 12 patients total were given resources or referrals for mental health care. All of the patients were properly billed and coded in the EHR. Staff satisfaction was high amongst all providers as a way to streamline care and have supportive guidelines.

Keywords:

Suicide, screening, pathway, toolkit

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There was no funding provided for this project