



“Store It Safe”

Anticipatory Guidance for 12 – 21 Year Olds

provided by the Partnership for the Safety of Children Around Firearms



SAFE: A four step process for addressing teen suicide in practice

S

SCREEN

for suicide at every adolescent encounter using a validated screening tool

A

ADVISE

all families to use a barrier to store potentially lethal means safely

F

FAMILY

discussion should be encouraged for every teen

E

EMERGENCY

department referrals should be made when there is a life threatening concern

SCREEN

Screen for suicide at every youth encounter using a validated screening tool:

- Include suicide prevention information in your anticipatory guidance and in your EMR
- Some recommended tools to screen for adolescent mental health concerns are:
 - Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9 For Teens) is a free resource to screen, monitor, and measure depression severity
 - Ask Suicide-Screening Questions (ASQ) Toolkit is a free resource for medical settings to help identify youth 10-21 years of age at risk for suicide
- **Refer to the Flow Chart on page 2 for how to talk with caregivers if a teen screens positive**

ADVISE

Advise all families to use a barrier to store potentially lethal means safely:

Safe storage should be incorporated into the normal safety discussion of a well-child visit



- **Firearms** – Every 3 hours a teenager in the US takes his or her life using a firearm



- **Medications** – Both prescription and over-the-counter medications can result in overdose deaths



- **Alcohol** – Alcohol causes more than 4,300 deaths among US teens each year

FAMILY DISCUSSION

- Be openminded in your questioning.
 - Instead of asking “Do you have a firearm in the home?” ask “If there is a firearm in the home, is it kept locked and away from children?”
 - If yes, that is great. Families should still be encouraged to talk to their children about firearm safety in case they encounter an unsecured firearm in another setting.
 - If no, this is an opportunity for education about Store It Safe.
- Urge all firearm storage and keys to be stored separately in a location unknown to the teen. Encourage families to store firearms and ammunition separately.

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT REFERRALS

If you have immediate concerns send youth to your local emergency department.

Provide resources and referrals for families who need help:

- Connect with community partners and local resources for suicide prevention
- If you have further questions, refer families to resources:
 - **Suicide Prevention Resource Center** - www.sprc.org
 - **Suicide Prevention Lifeline** - www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org
 - **Suicide Prevention Lifeline** - Call 1-800-273-8255
 - **Crisis Text Line** - Text HOME to 741741

Almost 50%
of US homes have a firearm

1/3 of high school students
in a large metropolitan area have reported they have a firearm or easy access to a firearm

Suicide is the second leading
cause of death
in 10-19 year olds

Suicide
in teens can be triggered by a seemingly small stressor and happen quickly

At any given time
1 in 5 teens
are depressed

Firearms
are the leading cause of
death by suicide

Barriers to lethal means
are effective in
reducing suicides

Partnership for
[SAFETY]
of Children
Around Firearms

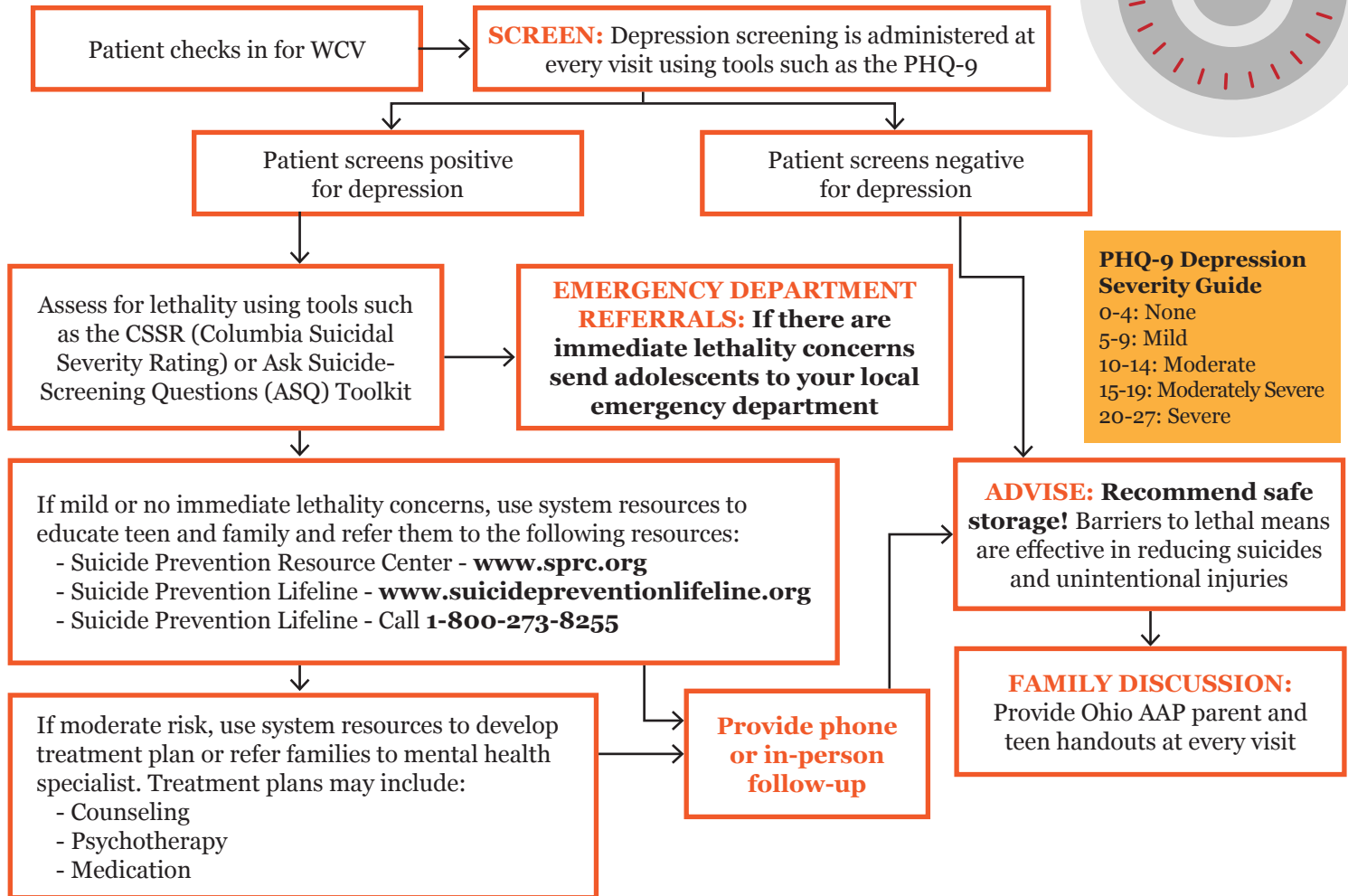


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Sample: SAFE Flow Chart



Store It Safe is a unique partnership of healthcare providers, firearm experts, and community organizations established to keep children safe from unintentional firearm deaths and teens safe from suicide by firearms. Young children are curious and will touch anything, while teens are still learning to control impulses. Our goal is to inform families of risks so they can keep their children safe.

Questions?

- Resources from Ohio AAP for families can be found at: www.ohioaap.org/storeitsafe
- The Ohio AAP is one partner, but suicide prevention will be more effective if physicians, communities, organizations, and families work together; find a local suicide prevention coalition at: www.ohiospf.org/coalitions



Ohio Chapter

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