



Clinical Toolkit

Clinical Tips: What to do with High Acute Risk of Suicide

If a risk assessment reveals that a young person has a high acute risk of suicide:

- 1. Consider young person's immediate safety.**
 - a. Do not leave the young person alone.
 - b. Make sure environment is safe.
 - c. Get help – ambulance, police, crisis response team.
- 2. Develop safety plan (if person doesn't have one).**
 - a. Proactively
 - b. Collaboratively
 - c. Communicate to appropriate people
 - d. Consider what has been helpful in the past
- 3. Contact all involved in the person's care** (e.g. other or previous medical practitioners, crisis team, mental health service, hospital, family and friends, other supports) with consent as far as possible.
- 4. Clearly explain your actions.**
- 5. Do not agree to keep the suicide plan a secret.**
- 6. Consider whether brief admission to a psychiatric inpatient service is needed.**
- 7. If unsure at any stage it is important to seek advice from colleagues**, senior staff or specialist mental health services or clinicians. It is important to document these discussions and outcomes carefully.