Primary Care has an important role in screening for depression and identifying patients who are experiencing suicidal intent.

There are evidence-based options for evaluating suicide risk following identification of suicidal ideation. Suicide assessment tools designed for use in primary care can offer additional information and support in developing practice procedures that allow for safe and consistent responses to suicidal ideation.

To respond effectively and safely to suicide risk, it is essential to do the following:

- Train the entire team to recognize warning signs and risk factors
- Establish office policies and procedures that allow for the healthcare team to follow an established predetermined plan
- Develop connections with community behavioral health services for referrals and consultation
- Identify a suicide risk assessment tool to respond effectively and safely

**Assessment Tools**

*Click the tool below to visit each website*

- **The Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS)** allows for evaluation of suicidal ideation and provides recommendations for level of care needed based on responses to items.

- **SAFE-T or Suicide Assessment Five-Step Evaluation and Triage Tool** allows you to evaluate risk and protective factors, assess suicidal ideation, determine risk level or intervention needs and identifies documentation requirements to affirm your plan of care. The SAFE-T is offered through the SAMSHA website to clinicians and has a mobile app to support use in all settings.

- **ZEROSuicide** is an initiative rooted in the belief that no one receiving care in a health or behavioral health system should be lost to suicide. This initiative provides a continuous quality improvement framework for system-wide, organizational commitment to safer suicide care. Organizational resources, including the Institute for Family Health’s Managing Clinical Pathways in Primary and Behavioral Health Care, are available through the website.

- **The Institute for Family Health** created the **Managing Suicidality: Clinical Pathways in Primary and Behavioral Health Care** resource to guide staff through their organization’s approach to identification and response.

**Access Resources**

- Visit Alliant Quality’s resources at [https://www.alliantquality.org/topic/behavioral-health/](https://www.alliantquality.org/topic/behavioral-health/)