Supporting suicide risk assessment, monitoring, and safety planning: A HIPAA-compliant, web-based platform of evidence-based tools

Kristen McLaughlin, MA, Nitin Gupta, M.S., Erica Van De Wal-Ward, MA, James Kenney, BFA, Deborah Layman, MA, Jeremy Herring, MPH, Molly Fintinnay, MD

BACKGROUND

- Suicide is a growing public crisis. Since 1999, death by suicide has steadily increased making it the tenth leading cause of death in the United States.¹
- Technology can help treat teams systematically identify, assess, and monitor patients at risk for suicide.
- PSYCKES® provides evidence-based tools to access suicide risk and facilitate ongoing treatment.

EXAMPLE HIGH RISK WORKFLOW

1. During first encounter, member of treatment team screens all patients for suicide risk (C-SSRS)².
2. A positive screen prompts the screener to create a safety plan (Stanley-Brown template)³.
3. A positive screen automatically places the patient on the Suicide Care Pathway registry.⁴
4. Treating providers, including emergency workers, can review the patient’s Clinical Summary⁴ for treatment history over the past 5 years, including inpatient and outpatient services, medications, Quality Flags* and Alerts* (e.g. history of prior suicide attempts), C-SSRS, and Safety Plans.⁵

CONCLUSION

- PSYCKES can be an integral part of a comprehensive suicide prevention protocol.
- Multiple platforms (desktop & iOS app) allow for clinic, hospital, or community-based care.
- Suicide care data is stored in one place and available to treatment team and all providers statewide, with consent, or in an emergency, to inform assessment of risk and promote care coordination for high-risk patients.

KEY/DEFINITIONS

PSYCKES: The Psychiatric Services and Clinical Knowledge Enhancement System for Medicaid is a HIPAA-compliant, web-based portfolio of tools designed to support quality improvement and clinical decision-making in the New York State Medicaid Behavioral Health population.

C-SSRS: The Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale is an assessment tool that evaluates suicidal ideation and behavior.

Stanley-Brown Template: A template for developing a safety plan with a patient at increased risk for a suicide attempt.

Suicide Care Pathway Registry: A tab within PSYCKES that tracks patients with high suicide risk.

Clinical Summary: Up to five years of individual patient data across all treatment settings statewide, including both medical and behavioral health.

Quality Flags: Flags that alert treatment teams of patients at risk for poor outcomes.

Alerts: Data on suicide attempt or ideation, self-inflicted harm, opioid overdose, or positive C-SSRS.

REFERENCES