

CADTH Reference List

Guidelines for Suicide Risk Assessment in Home Care

August 2022

Authors: Candice Madakadze, Carolyn Spry

Cite As: *Guidelines for Suicide Risk Assessment in Homecare*. (CADTH reference list: summary of abstracts). Ottawa: CADTH; 2022 Aug.

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Funding: CADTH receives funding from Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial governments, with the exception of Quebec.

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Key Message

No relevant evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding suicide risk assessment in home care settings.

Research Question

What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding suicide risk assessment in home care settings?

Methods

Literature Search Methods

A limited literature search was conducted by an information specialist on key resources including MEDLINE, the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, the international HTA database, and the websites of Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused internet search. The search strategy comprised both controlled vocabulary, such as the National Library of Medicine's MeSH (Medical Subject Headings), and keywords. The main search concepts were suicide and homecare. No filters were applied to limit retrieval by study type. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English-language documents published between January 1, 2017, and August 8, 2022. Internet links were provided, where available.

Selection Criteria and Summary Methods

One reviewer screened literature search results (titles and abstracts) and selected publications according to the inclusion criteria presented in [Table 1](#). Full texts of study publications were not reviewed. The overall summary of findings was based on information available in the abstracts of selected publications. Open access full-text versions of evidence-based guidelines were reviewed when available, and relevant recommendations were summarized.

Table 1: Selection Criteria

Criteria	Description
Population	Individuals at risk for suicide in home care settings
Intervention	Suicide risk assessments
Comparator	NA
Outcomes	Guidelines and recommendations regarding best practices (e.g., risk assessment protocols, appropriate strategies for monitoring clients, or referring to appropriate care)
Study designs	Evidence-based guidelines

NA = not applicable

Results

No relevant evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding suicide risk assessment in home care settings.

Additional references of potential interest that did not meet the inclusion criteria are provided in [Appendix 1](#).

Overall Summary of Findings

No relevant evidence-based guidelines were found regarding suicide risk assessment in home care settings; therefore, no summary can be provided.

References

Guidelines and Recommendations

No literature identified.

Appendix 1: References of Potential Interest

Note that this appendix has not been copy-edited.

Non-Randomized Studies

1. Dunn SL, DeVon HA, Collins EG, et al. Suicide risk management protocol for a randomized controlled trial of cardiac patients reporting hopelessness. *Nurs Res*. 2021 Jan/Feb;70(1):72-79. [PubMed](#)

Guidelines and Recommendations

Unclear Methodology

2. Butcher HK, Ingram TN. Evidence-based practice guideline: secondary prevention of late-life suicide. *J Gerontol Nurs*. 2018 Nov 01;44(11):20-32. [PubMed](#)

Review Articles

3. Jones AL, Pastor DK. Older adult suicides: what you should know and what you can do. *Home Healthc Now*. 2020 May/Jun;38(3):124-130. [PubMed](#)

Additional References

4. Mlinac ME, Smith RW, Siffert KJ, Richter LC, Steadman-Wood PL, Wetherell JL. Development of a suicide prevention toolkit for VA home-based primary care teams. *Home Healthc Now*. 2021 Jan-Feb 01;39(1):13-19. [PubMed](#)
5. The Canadian Patient Safety Institute. Suicide risk assessment toolkit. 2021; <https://mentalhealthcommission.ca/resource/suicide-risk-assessment-toolkit/>. Accessed 2022 August 9.