

Interventions for potentially suicidal clients

High risk		Moderate risk			Low risk
Client has frequent and intense suicidal thoughts, plan is specific and lethal, and has clear desire to kill themself.		Client has suicidal ideation, but limited suicidal intent and no specific plan			Client has thoughts of death only with no plan or behavior
Severe psychiatric symptoms and/or acute precipitating event, access to lethal means, poor social support, impaired judgement	No access to lethal means, good social support and judgment.	Evaluate for	r psychiatric disorders, st	resso	rs, and additional risk factors
1)psychophar 2) alcohol/drug a		ention plan nacological treatment ssessment and referral, family therapy referra			
Encourage social support, involving family members, close friends and community resources. Record risk assessment and treatment plan.					

Illustration adapted from Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) and Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC). (2009) Suicide Prevention Toolkit for Rural Primary Care. A Primary Care Providers. Boulder, Colorado: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.