

**Reference Number:** FOI/2020/064  
**From:** Other  
**Date:** 10 February 2020  
**Subject:** Suicide risk assessments

Q1 Which suicide risk assessments do you use at your trust?

A1 Information not held - as a specialist heart and chest hospital we don't have a formal suicide risk assessment for patients who are at risk. We only deal with very small numbers of such cases.

We do however have a Ligature and Suicide Risk: Annual Environmental Risk Assessment and Management Guidance, used to ensure staff are aware of potential ligatures and how to assess the environment should a patient express suicidal ideation.

If a patient did express suicidal ideation they would be assessed by a Doctor and further advice would be sought from a range of specialist external sources. The safeguarding team would be notified and any appropriate referrals would be made and local checks put in place.

Q2 What training do your staff undertake in using those suicide risk assessments?

A2 Information not held – as per A1 we do not use suicide risk assessments.

Q3 What training do your staff have in assessing risk of suicide in general?

A3 None currently, staff would refer patients to the Trust's specialist Safeguarding or Psychology Teams who would then review the patient and appropriate measures would be put in place to keep the patient safe.

Q4 What is the procedure your staff follow when they identify a person at risk of suicide?

A4 Information not held – no specific procedure actions depending on circumstance. An example would be:

- Refer to Safeguarding team – Who will assess/take history of the patient and make recommendations, escalate or refer on
- Ask a Doctor to review and assess patient –escalate or prescribe if needed
- Increase 'watch' comfort checks on patient
- Ensure patient is visible (Not in side room)
- Undertake ligature risk assessment of personal belongings i.e. – belts,
- Ensure staff are aware and have read environmental ligature risk assessment of the area which is held on local risk registers.

Q5 How many people have been assessed for risk of suicide between 2012 and 2020, if possible by month and department

A5 Information not held – the Trust does not routinely collate or hold this information centrally

as part of its management or performance data.

- Q6 How many people were identified as at risk of suicide between 2012 and 2020, if possible by month and department
- A6 Information not held – the Trust does not routinely collate or hold this information centrally as part of its management or performance data.