Program: Hospital
Chapter: National Patient Safety Goals
Standard: NPSG.15.01.01: Identify patients at risk for suicide.
Note: This requirement applies only to psychiatric hospitals and patients being treated for emotional or behavioral disorders in general hospitals.

Rationale: Suicide of a patient while in a staffed, round-the-clock care setting is a frequently reported type of sentinel event. Identification of individuals at risk for suicide while under the care of or following discharge from a health care organization is an important step in protecting these at-risk individuals.

EPs:
1 Conduct a risk assessment that identifies specific patient characteristics and environmental features that may increase or decrease the risk for suicide.
2 Address the patient’s immediate safety needs and most appropriate setting for treatment.
3 When a patient at risk for suicide leaves the care of the hospital, provide suicide prevention information (such as a crisis hotline) to the patient and his or her family.