Suicide Assessment

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Drew Anderson, Ph.D., EMT is an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University at Albany-SUNY, where he has been since 1998. He is an active teacher and researcher at the University at Albany, and he also maintains a part-time private practice in the Albany area with a focus on cognitive-behavioral interventions. Drew has been an EMT since 2011 and is currently a Lieutenant with Delmar-Bethlehem EMS.

Suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the US, and roughly 12-25 people attempt suicide for every completed suicide. EMS providers are frequently called upon to interact with individuals who are either suicidal or are at risk for suicide. This presentation will give EMS providers a framework for evaluating suicidality and suicide risk in patients.

Presentation Outline:

- Who is at risk?
- What to look for and what questions to ask
- How to ask the questions
- How to communicate your assessment to hospital providers

Objective 1: Articulate common risk factors for suicidality

Objective 2: Conduct a suicide assessment

Objective 3: Effectively communicate the results of the assessment to hospital providers