Implementing a suicide risk management plan in general practice: the central role of the practice nurse

Prasuna Reddy, Kate Schlicht, Hamish Brown, Mark Morgan, Bob Leahy, James Dunbar
Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health, Flinders and Deakin Universities

PROCEDURE

PHQ-9 Returned and reviewed by Practice Nurse

Positive Question 9?

Yes

No

Risk Assessment by Practice Nurse (PN) or General Practitioner (GP)

Goal Setting and Problem Solving

Referred to:
• Public Mental Crisis Assessment Team
• Management by clinic by PN/GP
• Private Mental Health Professionals

PROJECT AIMS

The TrueBlue project aims to provide a collaborative model of care utilising the centrality of the practice nurse. Risk was identified by the PHQ-9. These patients were identified by the practice nurse and managed by the protocol. This poster presents the protocol and the results of that management and the feedback from the practice nurses regarding use of the protocol.

CONCLUSION

- Participants at risk were identified by the PHQ-9 at risk
- Protocols were followed
- Timely referrals were made and followed-up
- With the backing of protocol and procedure Nurses reported feeling confident to manage suicide risk

1 Kroenke K, Spitzer R L, Williams J B. ‘The PHQ-9: validity of a brief depression severity measure’, Journal of General Internal Medicine, 16(9): 606-613, 2001

This project is funded by beyondblue.

Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health
Flinders and Deakin Universities
Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

(Poster prepared on 9th June 2010)