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## For parents/guardians

### What is screening for suicide risk?

Your child's health and safety is our main concern. There are new national safety guidelines we aim to follow to help keep your child safe. If your child comes to the hospital with a behavioral health concern, then we will screen them for suicide risk.

- Hospital staff will ask you to step out/away from your child's room for a few minutes.
- A care team member will ask your child some questions about suicide risk in private.
- We will let you know if there are any concerns about your child's safety.

### What else do I need to know?

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth from 10 to 19 years old.

- It is safe to ask your child questions about suicide.
- Asking questions is very important to help prevent suicide.
- Research has shown that it will not harm your child to ask them about thoughts of suicide. Asking your child about suicide does not cause your child to have thoughts of suicide.

Thank you for your support. Please talk with your child's doctor if you have any questions about your child's safety.

**This teaching sheet contains general information only. Talk with your child's doctor or a member of your child's healthcare team about specific care of your child.**

**In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.**