

# Assessing Situation of Inpatient Mental Health Screening and Suicide Prevention of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Dongxiang Hu, Meilin Fan, Lilian Gao \*

Gastrointestinal Surgery Department, The First Affiliated Hospital, Jinan University, Guangzhou, China

**Email address:**

564427719@qq.com (Dongxiang Hu), 573129923@qq.com (Meilin Fan), 943309720@qq.com (Lilian Gao)

\*Corresponding author

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**Abstract:** Objective: To assess situation of Inpatient mental health screening and suicide prevention of standard operating procedure (SOP). Methods: We invest 306 people to join our study from August 2017 to July 2019, the participants contain 128 patients, 128 healthy people and 50 medical workers. The information is collected by interview and questionnaire, that includes basic information of participants, depression assessment, anxiety assessment and medical workers' suicide prevention cognition score. The questionnaires include simple questionnaire, Self-Rating Anxiety Scale (SAS) and Self-rating depression scale (SDS). Result: In SAS research and SDS research, patient group has higher score than that of healthy people group, that patients were more anxious and depressed than healthy people in this mental health research. And the situation between patient group and healthy people group have big different as the results are statistical significance ( $p < 0.001$ ). In medical workers' suicide prevention cognition test, the test accuracy rates only have approximately 60% in those 3 domains, so medical workers' knowledge of suicide prevention of standard operating procedure (SOP) is far from enough in hospitalization. In particular, suicide prevention measures part has better performance than that of basic knowledge of suicide part (7 out of 12 vs 5 out of 8). Conclusion: The suicide prevention is a serious problem in hospitalized patient, the inpatients have serious mental health problem and medical workers lack related knowledge and skills.

**Keywords:** Mental Health, Suicide Prevention, Inpatient

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## 1. Introduction

In global public health, suicide is a severe threat in treatment process [1, 2]. Effective suicide prevention in healthcare settings requires a comprehensive approach encompassing multiple levels of the healthcare system [3]. Nearly 650,000 patients are related to suicidal behavior each year. Although this figure is likely a lower estimate of patients at risk of suicide, since screening is not yet routine in most settings [4, 5]. However, many developing nations lack adequate statistics regarding suicide. In Bangladesh, suicide monitor is difficult, because it is very likely that deaths by suicide are underreported due to stigma associated with suicide and mental illness [6]. Unfortunately, issues of poverty, gender discrimination, and lack of mental health resources are likely to compound the problem [7]. Base on reports, nurse

who lack psychiatric training and expertise are held responsible for ensuring a safe environment for suicidal patients despite having limited experience with assessing or mitigating the risks involved [8].

The nurses work of mental health is a stressful role as nurses need to constant engagement with, decision making about and care of, people in states of distress and mental disorder [9]. Although mental health work is recognized by allied health and medical professions to be a rightful part of clinical roles and time allocated accordingly, some people think it is an extraneous responsibility undertaken by the committed few in nursing process [10]. In clinical settings, co-occurring substance use impact and mental health disorders impact are particularly striking. Base on US's inpatient report, more patients have co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders [11]. The aim of this study

is that assess situation of inpatient mental health screening and suicide prevention of standard operating procedure (SOP).

## 2. Methods

### 2.1. Participants Enrollment and Survey Methods

We invest 306 people to join our study from August 2017 to July 2019, the participants contain 128 patients, 128 healthy people and 50 medical workers. In patient group, 128 patients were hospitalized in the hospital. 128 healthy people came from floating population near the hospital, we screened healthy people for eligible participants. In addition, 50 medical workers were invested from the hospital's staff survey, who are eligible for screening of this study. The information is collected by interview and questionnaire, that includes basic information of participants, depression assessment, anxiety assessment and medical workers' suicide prevention cognition score. The questionnaires include simple questionnaire, Self-Rating Anxiety Scale (SAS) and Self-rating depression scale (SDS) [12-14]. Additionally, the information was associated with participants characteristics from hospital database.

Their inclusion criteria were: (1) Patients were hospitalized in the hospital; (2) People volunteered to participate in study; (3) The participants were over 20 years old. Their withdraw criteria were: (1) The participants had severe mental illness; (2) people have not normal communication ability.

### 2.2. Statistical Analysis

Our data analyzer performed the statistical analysis by SPSS 22.0. The P value, t-test and chi-square test were associated with collection result were analyzed. Besides, the mean standard deviation for statistical description.

*Table 3. Medical Workers' Suicide Prevention Cognition Score.*

Projects	Full score	Test Score	Test Accuracy Rate (%)
Total Test	20	12.86±2.19	63.76
Basic knowledge of suicide part	12	7.43±1.54	62.53
Suicide prevention measures part	8	5.15±1.12	65.64

## 4. Discussion and Conclusion

Suicide is one of the ways patients die while in hospital, the rates appear to be increasing. More common in suicidal thoughts and behaviors compare with suicide, they predict future suicide and suicide attempts [15, 16]. Base on report, the period following a first suicide attempt associated with highest risk [17]. In addition, the majority of countries have a national suicide prevention strategy, the patients who are in hospital have specific attention in this prevention strategy [18]. In accordance with international best practice, most strategies recommend a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention spanning universal approaches, selective approaches and indicated approaches [19, 20].

## 3. Result

In Table 1, it shows patient characteristics and healthy people characteristics, their characteristics have not big gap as they are not statistical significance in result ( $p=0.165$  &  $p=0.139$ ).

*Table 1. Patient Characteristics and Healthy People Characteristics.*

Projects	Age (Year), (Mean±SD)	Gender (Female), [n (%)]
Patient group (n=128)	42.13±15.44	59 (46.1%)
Healthy People group (n=128)	41.62±16.90	62 (48.4%)
T	0.142	0.166
P value	0.165	0.139

The data of depression assessment and anxiety assessment is collected by SAS and SDS. Overall, patient group has higher score than that of healthy people group, that patients were more anxious and depressed than healthy people in this mental health research (Table 2). In addition, the situation between patient group and healthy people group have big different as the results are statistical significance ( $p<0.001$ ).

*Table 2. Depression Assessment and Anxiety Assessment by SAS and SDS.*

Projects	Cases	SAS	SDS
Patient group	128	70.24±5.63	70.36±5.68
Healthy People group	128	42.08±5.29	39.59±4.46
T	-	6.296	6.435
P value	-	<0.001	<0.001

In Table 3, it indicates the situation of skill and knowledge of medical workers' suicide prevention cognition. The test accuracy rates only have approximately 60% in those 3 domains, so medical workers' knowledge of suicide prevention of standard operating procedure (SOP) is far from enough in hospitalization. In particular, suicide prevention measures part has better performance than that of basic knowledge of suicide part (7 out of 12 vs 5 out of 8).

Base on above research result, the suicide prevention is a serious problem in hospitalized patient. Because the mental problems of patients are much more serious than those of normal healthy people, so they are more likely to have suicidal thoughts and actions. However, medical workers have not enough related knowledge and skills to support suicide prevention for inpatient. Because their suicide prevention cognition score only approximately 60% in every domain. Base on patient characteristics and healthy people characteristics research, patient group and healthy people group have similar age data and similar gender proportion, so they have similar basic situation. Additionally, worse situation of depression and anxiety in patient group compare with healthy people group, that the patients have mental health problems when they stay in hospital. The medical workers

lack enough knowledge and skill which are associated with suicide prevention. In limitations, our investigation was confined to the hospital and its vicinity, so the results represent only part of the picture.

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