

ABSTRACT WEBINAR AHA SEPTEMBER 2018

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States for adults and the 2nd leading cause of death for children and adolescents but with proper screening and treatment suicide is preventable.

Nurses care for patients in many different settings, and so they are uniquely positioned to screen for suicide. Yet, many are uncomfortable with asking the questions and sometimes believe the myth that if you ask it will happen.

As a mental health nursing instructor at a local University, the presenter is aware that many nurses receive only the basic training about suicide in nursing school, and are unclear about what screening tools to use to assess for suicide risk and what to do if they uncover that the person they are speaking with is having thoughts of wanting to die by suicide.

This webinar will describe the journey of one nurse in a community hospital healthcare setting, and her mission to become knowledgeable about suicide and to help others become comfortable and skilled at screening, assessing, planning, referring and helping the patient who is having thoughts of suicide develop a safety plan.