Ask the patient:

1. In the past few weeks, have you wished you were dead?  ○ Yes  ○ No

2. In the past few weeks, have you felt that you or your family would be better off if you were dead?  ○ Yes  ○ No

3. In the past week, have you been having thoughts about killing yourself?  ○ Yes  ○ No

4. Have you ever tried to kill yourself?  ○ Yes  ○ No

   If yes, how? ______________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

   When? _____________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

If the patient answers Yes to any of the above, ask the following acuity question:

5. Are you having thoughts of killing yourself right now?  ○ Yes  ○ No

Next steps:

• If patient answers “No” to all questions 1 through 4, screening is complete (not necessary to ask question #5). No intervention is necessary (*Note: Clinical judgment can always override a negative screen).

• If patient answers “Yes” to any of questions 1 through 4, or refuses to answer, they are considered a positive screen. Ask question #5 to assess acuity:

  □ “Yes” to question #5 = acute positive screen (imminent risk identified)
   • Patient requires a STAT safety/full mental health evaluation. Patient cannot leave until evaluated for safety.
   • Keep patient in sight. Remove all dangerous objects from room. Alert physician or clinician responsible for patient’s care.

  □ “No” to question #5 = non-acute positive screen (potential risk identified)
   • Patient requires a brief suicide safety assessment to determine if a full mental health evaluation is needed. Patient cannot leave until evaluated for safety.
   • Alert physician or clinician responsible for patient’s care.

Provide resources to all patients

24/7 Crisis line (Youth Services Bureau Ottawa)  1-877-377-7775 or 613-260-2360
24/7 Crisis line (Distress Centre of Ottawa & Region)  613-238-3311