# Determine Level of Risk for Suicide and Appropriate Action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk of Suicide</th>
<th>Indicators of Suicide Risk</th>
<th>Contributing Factors</th>
<th>Initial Action Based on Level of Risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>High Acute Risk</strong></td>
<td>Persistent suicidal ideation or thoughts</td>
<td>Acute state of mental disorder or acute psychiatric symptoms</td>
<td>Maintain direct observational control of the patient.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Strong intention to act or plan</td>
<td>Acute precipitating event(s)</td>
<td>Limit access to lethal means.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not able to control impulse OR</td>
<td>Inadequate protective factors</td>
<td>Immediate transfer with escort to Urgent/Emergency Care setting for hospitalization.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recent suicide attempt or preparatory behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Intermediate Acute Risk</strong></td>
<td>Current suicidal ideation or thoughts</td>
<td>Existence of warning signs or risk factors AND Limited protective factor</td>
<td>Refer to Behavioral Health provider for complete evaluation and interventions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No intention to act</td>
<td></td>
<td>Contact Behavioral Health provider to determine acuity of the referral.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Able to control the impulse</td>
<td></td>
<td>Limited access to lethal means.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No recent suicide attempt or preparatory behavior or rehearsal of act</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low Acute Risk</strong></td>
<td>Recent suicidal ideations or thoughts</td>
<td>Existence of protective factors AND Limited risk factors</td>
<td>Consider consultation with Behavioral Health to determine:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No intention to act or plan</td>
<td></td>
<td>-Need for referral</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Able to control the impulse</td>
<td></td>
<td>-Treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No planning or rehearsing a suicide act</td>
<td></td>
<td>Treat presenting problems</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No previous attempt</td>
<td></td>
<td>Address safety issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Document care and rational for action</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>