

**Act 74 - Suicide Awareness & Assessment
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Presenter Bio

Jennifer Beckjord, PsyD

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Dr. Beckjord is the Senior Director of Clinical Services at UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital and a licensed clinical psychologist. She graduated from the University of Michigan for undergraduate studies and Nova Southeastern University for her doctorate in psychology. Subsequently, she completed her clinical internship at Southern Illinois University and her post-doctoral hours at the UPMC Center for Eating Disorders where she served as the program director for the inpatient unit. In her current role, Dr. Beckjord provides clinical and administrative oversight for all inpatient clinical programming, milieu management, supervision, and therapy services. Dr. Beckjord also chairs and serves on several hospital committees and is a participant and stakeholder in various hospital-wide initiatives.

Jeffrey Magill, MS

Emergency Management Coordinator
UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital
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Jeffrey Magill, MS received his bachelor's degree in Criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and went on to receive his master's degree in human behavior from the Capella University. Mr. Magill is currently the Emergency Management Coordinator at UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital (WPH) where he also serves as Manager of the Crisis Training Institute, the Manager of the ASAP Staff Support program and the co-chair of the WPH Suicide Steering Committee. In his role, he enjoys training new hires and staff in the area of suicide using the Suicide Assessment Five-step Evaluation and Triage (SAFE-T) model. Jeff is a Bronze trainer for LivingWorks in the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) model, and an Approved Instructor for the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation.

Name and Narrative Description of your Presentation

Suicide Awareness & Assessment – Intermediate

Suicide ranks as the 10th most frequent cause of death in the United States, with one person dying from suicide every 11.9 minutes resulting in 121.1 deaths by suicide per day, suicide is a growing public health concern. In any given year, it is estimated that there are approximately 44,000 deaths by suicide (CDC). If we are going to be successful in reducing the rates of suicide, we must first increase the general awareness related to suicide.

The objective of this webinar is to increase the awareness of suicide by examining the suicide rates in the United States and exploring the reasons for the increasing rate of suicide. We will also discuss early signs of suicide risk, e.g., suicidal cues, and best practices around how to identify individuals at risk for suicide by conducting a thorough suicide screen and assessment, including salient risk and protective factors.

Three (3) learning objectives

By the completion of this session, participants should be able to:

1. Identify what are suicidal cues and what to do to address them when they are noticed.
2. Recognize the steps to take when a person is identified as being at risk for suicide.
3. Identify the five steps of the Suicide Assessment Five- step Evaluation and Triage (SAFE-T) model.

Three (3) current (within the past 10 years) peer-reviewed publications that support the evidence base for the content of your presentation

1. Batterham, et al. (2014). The Specificity of the Interpersonal-Psychological Theory of Suicidal Behavior for Identifying Suicidal Ideation in an Online Sample. *Suicide and Life Threatening Behavior*, 45(4), 448-460.
2. Fowler, J. C. (2012). Suicide risk assessment in clinical practice: Pragmatic guidelines for imperfect assessments. *Psychotherapy*, 49(1), 81-90.
3. Jin, et al. (2016). Recent Advances in Means Safety as a Suicide Prevention Strategy. *Current Psychiatry Reports*, 18(96), 1.