A Controlled Examination of Acute Warning Signs for Suicide Attempts Among Hospitalized Patients

Examining behavioral/experiential, cognitive, and affective warning signs among patients recently hospitalized following a suicide attempt.

**Warning Signs** are near-term risk factors for suicidal behavior that distinguish periods of acute heightened risk from periods of lower risk within an individual.

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Patients Hospitalized Following Suicide Attempt

Warning Signs Measured Using Timeline Followback for Suicide Attempts

Measured as present vs. absent or show increased frequency/intensity during 6-hours preceding attempt compared to control period

**Warning signs associated with near-term risk for suicide attempt:**

- Suicide-Related Communications
- Preparing Personal Affairs
- Drinking Alcohol
- Experiencing Negative Interpersonal Event
- Increases in Key Affective & Cognitive Responses

**Conclusion:** The identification of warning signs for suicidal behavior can enhance risk recognition efforts by medical providers, patients, their families, and other stakeholders that can serve to inform acute risk management decisions.