

Memorandum

To: Hospital Emergency Department Medical Directors
Infection Control Practitioners
Hospital Social Workers
Patient Records Departments

From: Timothy Noe, PhD, Administrator Center for Prevention and Health Promotion
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Subject: Discontinue Paper Reporting of Adolescent Suicide Attempts to the Public Health Division

Oregon Revised Statute 441.750 requires hospitals to report statistical information to the Public Health Division about patients under 18 years of age who have attempted suicide. The Public Health Division has developed, in partnership with Oregon hospital emergency departments, a new electronic data reporting system known as ESSENCE that can now be used to gather mandated statistical information about adolescent suicide attempts. Effective immediately, please notify attending physicians, hospital social work staff and other appropriate staff that they are not required to complete a suicide attempt report form.

Oregon Revised Statute 441.750 also requires emergency departments to provide patients with information and referral to inpatient or outpatient community resources, crisis intervention or other appropriate intervention.

Please continue to ensure that all patients receive an appropriate referral to community care. You can refer youth to the county behavioral health program, to their primary care provider, or other support services. You can also provide the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number (1-800-273-8255). Ensuring that patients and their caregivers have an established appointment for community care can support recovery and prevent future crisis.