



FNIHB-AB Nursing Policy and Procedure

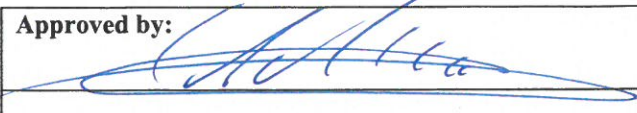
Section: **Mental Health**

Policy Number: In Progress

Subject: **Suicide Ideation**

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1. Policy:

Alberta First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) Nursing will make every effort to ensure that appropriate actions be taken when a client presents with suicidal ideation to a Health Centre or Nursing Station.

2. Principles: Alberta First Nations and Inuit Health Branch Nursing requires that:

2.1 Nurses are familiar with the provincial legislation, professional nursing standards (CARNA) and nursing codes of ethics regarding conduct and responsibility in the case of a client presenting to FNIHB Nursing Station/Health Centre.

2.2 Nurses understand the processes that guide actions when a client presents to clinic with suicidal ideation as outlined in the procedure.

2.3 Nurses use the algorithm and procedure as a guide that outlines when a physician, RCMP, behavioral therapist, FNIHB Mental Health Unit, and Nurse in Charge must be notified.

3. Definitions:

3.1 Suicide: "Death caused by self-directed injurious behavior with any intent to die as a result of the behavior" (Health Canada, 2016, P. 26).

3.2 Suicidal Ideation: are suicidal thoughts about how to kill oneself, which can range from a detailed plan to a fleeting consideration and does not include the final act of killing oneself (RNAO, 2009).



3.3 The Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention recommends we use terms that are non-judgemental such as 'death by suicide or died by suicide' rather than 'committed suicide' (CASP, 2017).

3.4 Point Person: the community team member (eg. NNADAP, Social Services, Elder) who is most appropriate to provide the ongoing communication and coordination of care for the client, family, and health professional.

4. Procedure:

FNIHB nursing recognizes that a client presenting with suicidal ideation is a serious and meaningful clinic encounter to which nurses are periodically exposed. The nurse's role may include the following in the response to a client with suicidal ideation:

- Appropriate assessment & documentation
- Consultation with a Physician and/or a Behavioral Therapist
- Report to RCMP if client presents with harm to self or others
- Notifying Nurse in Charge
- Establish a Point Person

A nurse is required to act, report, and document within the appropriate framework of provincial legislation, professional standards and nursing codes of ethics within his/her employment context (College & Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta 2013); Health Professions Act 2017; FNIHB 2012, CNA 2008; Alberta Mental Health Act and Community Treatment Orders, 2010).

5. **Related Procedure:** see Assessment and Management of Suicide Ideation Risk.

6. References

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