

## Sequential questions to determine level of suicide risk

1. *"In the past couple of weeks, were things ever so bad that you had thoughts that life is not worth living or that you'd be better off dead?"* [Passive suicide ideation]

### If Yes, continue with Question 2

2. *"Have you had any thoughts about hurting yourself or suicide in the past couple of weeks?"* [Active suicide ideation]

### If Yes, continue with Questions 2a-2g

- 2a. *"What have you been thinking of doing?"* [Type of method]
- 2b. *"How often do you have these thoughts? How long do they stay in your mind?"* [Frequency and persistence]
- 2c. *"What is going on in your life right now?"* [Life stress (e.g., loss, change in health status)]
- 2d. *"Do you have a plan for doing this?"* [Specific detailed suicide plan]
- 2e. *"Do you intend to harm yourself?"* [Suicide intention]
- 2f. *"Is there anything preventing you from harming yourself? For example, how strong is your desire to live? Do you feel you have a purpose in life? Do you have hope for the future? Do you consider suicide morally wrong or against your religious beliefs? Do you want to avoid causing family and friends pain?"* [Reason for living]
- 2g. *"Do you feel you can resist these thoughts? Have you ever done anything to harm yourself? How often do you drink alcohol or use street drugs?"* [Impulse control]

From Raue P, Brown EL, Meyers BS, Schulberg HC, Bruce ML. Does every allusion to possible suicide require the same response? *The Journal of Family Practice* 2006; VOL 55, NO7:605-612.