

**POLICY ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF ATTEMPTED SUICIDE WITHIN
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS OF NHS GREATER
GLASGOW & CLYDE**

NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	Custodian: Acute CG forum
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1. Attempted Suicide/Suicide intention

Patients may arrive by ambulance, accompanied by the police or self present to Emergency Departments.

Patients brought to ED by SAS or police following threatened or attempted suicide should be brought into the department and a physical handover of the patient to a member of ED staff must be carried out (verbal handovers are not permitted). Under no circumstances should patients be left in the waiting room or left unaccompanied at any time. These patients should remain in the department in a cubicle within the line of sight of nursing staff.

In the event of increased activity within the ED and a suitable room cannot be found for patients this should be escalated within hours to the Lead Nurse or Clinical Service Manager. Out of hours it should be escalated to the Clinical Co-ordinator.

Patients who self present

Patients who self present to the ED reception desk, once health records staff have been advised that the presenting complaint is attempted suicide, threat of suicide or suicide intention they must contact the triage nurse immediately to enable an assessment of the patient to take place. Following this assessment the patient must be taken to a cubicle within the line of sight of nursing staff.

In the event of a patient absconding from the department this must be brought to the immediate attention of the most senior doctor/most senior nurse on duty within the Department to ensure appropriate escalation takes place.

2. Governance Arrangements

The Clinical Directors for both Glasgow and Clyde EDs and Head of Nursing ECMS have approved this policy.

3. Next steps

This policy has been formally endorsed by the Acute Clinical Governance Group ,the NHS GG&C/SAS Liaison Group. It will be formally issued to health records staff via the Head of Health Records and to Clinical Co-ordinators via the Head of Practice Development. It will also be issued to Strathclyde Police via Policy Administration Unit. All ED staff will be alerted to this new policy by existing communication channels and it will be uploaded onto the ED intranet site.