



RESOURCES TO HELP YOU FOLLOWING THE SUICIDE OF A PATIENT

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“To help a truly suicidal person you have to approach them with an open heart...”

Chaplain of Beachy Head ”



TRAUMATISED WORKFORCE



- *By undigested experience of suicide and homicide.*
- *Increased and exacerbated by organisational and coronial processes.*
- *This means that working with an open heart with those who are in distress is profoundly inhibited*

- If we do not address this trauma at the heart of the workforce other wellbeing initiatives will be able to achieve very little.
- Our perception of our roles is distorted. We turn away from ameliorating distress and therapeutic engagement towards an unachievable task: of predicting individual suicide.
- We collude with the delusional belief that someone can be to blame for someone else's death by suicide.



RCPSYCH WORK ADDRESSING THIS CORE PROBLEM

1. Where is it being addressed:
 - Patient Safety group, Working Group on the Effect of Homicide on Clinicians,
 - PSS, Wellbeing committee
2. Webpage:
<https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/members/supporting-you/if-a-patient-dies-by-suicide>
3. Conferences/Workshops
4. Guidance for all Mental Health Organisations
5. National peer support group online 2/12

If a patient dies by suicide

This section has been created to support psychiatrists during the difficult time after a patient has died by suicide.

The resources on this page have been developed with the help of a working group consisting of members who have experienced the death of a patient by suicide during their careers.

SUICIDE

- Conference on the effect of suicide on clinicians'
- Creative conversations about suicide
- Booklet for all psychiatrists and all clinicians
- Research on the effects and publications
- Other conferences:
 - Congress/Startwell/Scottish Conference/
Speciality Doctor/Many others
- Guidance for all MHO for pastoral care of staff following the suicide of a patient
- Many consultations individual and in groups



YOU HAVE A ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO A CHANGE IN CULTURE

- You are part of the culture you are in.
- A revolution of sanity is needed to overturn the persecutory systems we are surrounded by both internally and externally.

