Suicide

Understanding

How we can help

Our psychiatric hospital provides a safe environment for persons at risk or who have attempted or are threatening suicide. Our highly trained and compassionate staff includes psychiatrists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, chaplains and more. Crisis stabilization is the goal for those entering the program, followed by the development of an individualized aftercare plan.

Once the crisis has passed, we offer continuing support to help address the issues that led to suicidal thoughts or attempts. These include short-term intensive daily treatment on our campus as well as services through our Transition Clinic, psychiatry and medication management, outpatient counseling, individual therapy and group therapy.

If You Have Lost Someone to Suicide

Grieving the loss of someone who has lost their life to suicide is a difficult and complicated process fraught with feelings of sadness, guilt, anger and frustration. We provide professional grief counseling to help you work through your grief and loss and can also connect you to a support group where survivors of suicide benefit from sharing their experiences with others.

Suicidal Posts on Social Media

With social media an increasing part of our everyday lives, you may occasionally see posts online from someone expressing thoughts of suicide—even someone you don’t know.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline has compiled a contact list of Safety Teams at TikTok, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and other platforms to help you anonymously report users: suicidepreventionlifeline.org/help-someone-else.

Other social media sites not featured on the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline website may offer similar reporting features. The best way to find them is to use the social media site’s search feature and search for the terms “suicide” or “self-harm.”

Contact Information

Outpatient & Telehealth
We offer assessment, psychiatry, psychosocial help and individual, group and family therapy through our outpatient clinics and telehealth services throughout Michigan.
866.852.4001
pinerest.org/locations
pinerest.org/telehealth

Psychiatric Urgent Care
For urgent needs, our Psychiatric Urgent Care Center is open daily to adults for same day assessments. Appointments are also available through telehealth.
616.455.9200
pinerest.org/urgent

Crisis Services
If you or a loved one are in crisis, please call our hospital Contact Center which is staffed 24/7 by licensed clinicians.
800.678.5500
616.281.6446 (TTY line)
pinerest.org/inpatient

For more information about mental health topics, please visit: pinerest.org/insights

By knowing the warning signs you can help prevent a suicide
Understanding Suicide

Although anyone could contemplate or attempt suicide, certain factors put some people at higher risk. Mental health conditions top the list with an estimated 90% of suicide victims having a potentially treatable mental health condition (although all may not have been diagnosed or treated) including:

- Depression—it’s estimated 2 out of 3 victims of suicide had depression
- Anxiety disorder
- Bipolar disorder
- Schizophrenia
- Substance use disorder

Other risk factors include:

- Serious or chronic health condition and/or pain
- Previous suicide attempt
- Family history of suicide
- Family history of mental illness
- Childhood abuse
- Stressful life events such as a death, divorce or job loss
- Prolonged exposure to stress factors such as harassment, bullying, relationship difficulties and unemployment

It’s important to remember these factors do not cause suicide, only heighten the risk.

Warning Signs

We now know that most people who end their lives exhibit warning signs through their behavior or what they say. Most will show at least one or two signs, but could exhibit more.

Talking or writing about:
- Wanting to die
- Killing themselves
- Feeling hopeless or trapped
- Having no reason to live
- Being in unbearable pain
- Fearing they are a burden to others

New or changes in behavior:
- Searching for a way to end their life, such as stocking pills, looking to buy a gun, etc.
- Increased use of alcohol or drugs
- Giving away prized possessions
- Visiting or posting goodbyes
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Isolating from friends and family
- Withdrawing from activities
- Acting recklessly or aggressively

Talking to Someone about Suicide

Suspecting or learning a friend or loved one is contemplating suicide can be overwhelming and frightening. However, talking to them is the first step in preventing suicide. Some talking tips include:

- Don’t wait for them to bring up the topic
- Ask direct questions in a sensitive way
- Show genuine concern
- Don’t be judgmental
- Never act shocked by what they might express to you

Let them know you understand it may seem there is no other way out of their pain, but that suicide is never the answer, treatment does exist and you will support them in seeking the help they need.

Ask if they have thought about how they would carry out a suicide. If they are able to give you a specific plan, DON’T leave them alone and do whatever you can to remove items like firearms, pills or other drugs, razor blades, extension cords— anything they could use to seriously hurt or kill themselves. If you can, take them to a doctor, mental health professional, hospital ER or call 911.

For immediate help, you can also call Pine Rest at 800.678.5500 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800.273.TALK.