FOUNDATIONS OF DISCIPLINE #3: PERFORM A RISK ASSESSMENT

Short Description:
Assess a patient with respect to risk. The focus of this EPA is on suicidality, though the learner should be able to perform a basic inquiry into other relevant areas of risk as described in the fourth milestone.

Assessment Options:
- Direct observation

Scope:
- Any patient in any clinical setting with suicidal ideation or an attempt

Possible Settings
- Any psychiatry rotation

Milestones:

**Elicit a suicide risk history**
- Elicits details of the events leading up to the ideation and/or attempt
- Elicits details of the attempt itself, if relevant
- If applicable, determines intent and assesses potential lethality after a suicide attempt
  - Identifies and utilizes important sources of collateral information

**Elicit and identify pertinent protective and aggravating factors**
- Elicits supports and important relationships
- Elicits patient's reasons to continue living
- Assesses future orientation
- Demonstrates knowledge of risk factors for suicide and risk stratification
- Recognizes and appreciates the implications of various diagnoses or symptoms (e.g. anxious distress, psychosis, command hallucinations, delusions of control) related to suicidal ideation and attempts

**Assess safety**
- Assesses risk to minors
- Assesses homicidal ideation
- Assesses risk of driving
  - Awareness of duty to warn
  - Self-care and physical impairment risk
  - Demonstrates understanding of non-suicidal self injury (self harm) versus suicidal ideation
**Comprehensively document and communicate the risk assessment**

- Effectively communicates orally to patients/family/supervisor.
- Documents in appropriate medico-legal fashion in patient chart and highlights modifiable and static risk factors, chronicity, etc.