Maternal Depression Crisis Intervention Algorithm

It is determined that mother is suicidal or homicidal and there is imminent danger

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**Before visit, review your agency protocol & local resources**
- Call local emergency resources, relay any need for translator
- Contact your supervisor
- If you are in danger, leave and call 911
- If not, stay with mom and child until they are safe. Is there a trusted friend or relative that can stay or transport to Emergency Room?

**Collaborate with mother for care of child/ren**
- Consider friends, relatives, neighbors, or faith community
- Local emergency shelter, crisis nursery, or child protection if no other options
- Assist with arrangements as needed

**Document the complete intervention**
- Facts about mother's condition
- Contacts made & contact information
- Arrangements made
- Date/Time of events

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**Refer to your program's local resources**

**If have consent, contact care provider**
Primary care, obstetrician and/or mental health care provider to inform of situation

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**Follow up**

Debrief with supervisor or coworker

Contact next business day:
- Provide support & reflection
- Obtain updated status & provider names
- Plan for follow-up visit

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**Return to maternal screening algorithm & re-screen as needed**

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**Follow up visit: collaborate with mom for ongoing care**
- Continue to evaluate mental health status. Increase contacts
- Reflect on their experience, medication effectiveness and connection to mental health provider
- Determine plan for mental health follow-up (obtain two-way releases)
- Stay focused on purpose of keeping baby and mom safe. build on strengths

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Keep in touch with mom's therapist/provider
minimally monthly until mother is stable as determined by therapist/mental health provider
Depression Crisis Intervention Algorithm in Word:

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Collaborate with mother for care of child/ren
- Consider friends, relatives, neighbors, or faith community
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Document the complete intervention including:
- Facts about mother’s condition
- Contacts made & contact information
- Arrangements made
- Date/Time of events

If have consent, contact care provider:
- Primary care, obstetrician and/or mental health care provider to inform of situation

Follow Up
- Debrief with supervisor or coworker

Contact next business day:
- Provide support & reflection
- Obtain updated status & provider names
- Plan for follow-up visit

Follow up visit: collaborate with mom for on-going care:
- Continue to evaluate mental health status. Increase contacts
- Reflect on their experience, medication effectiveness and connection to mental health provider
- Determine plan for mental health follow-up (obtain two-way releases)
- Stay focused on purpose of keeping baby and mom safe, building on strengths

Keep in touch with mom’s therapist/ provider
- minimally monthly until mother is stable as determined by therapist/ mental health provider

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References