

Specification of Competency Standards
for the Elderly Care Service Industry
Unit of Competency

Functional Area - Psychosocial & Spiritual Care

Title	Design Guidelines to Prevent Elderlies from committing Suicide
Code	106122L5
Range	This Unit of Competency is applicable to employees in the elderly care service industry in charge of formulating counselling service policies and risk management. This competency involves non-routine tasks, critical analysis and ability to reorganize relevant information. Employees are required to understand policies and direction of the institution on preventing suicides among elderlies, master information related to elderly suicides, analyse and integrate such information so as to formulate guidelines for preventing suicides among elderlies
Level	5
Credit	3 (For Reference Only)
Competency	<p>Performance Requirements</p> <p>1. Relevant knowledge on preventing suicides among elderlies</p> <p>Be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand institutions' vision regarding prevention of suicides among elderlies • Understand the latest solutions on preventing suicides among elderlies, their limitations and current scope of service • Understand the professional attitude and code of conduct required when preventing elderlies from committing suicide, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strike a balance between the protection of elderlies' privacy and the need to communicate important issues with relevant staff ○ Respect and accept elderlies' core values and opinions; avoid blaming and criticizing ○ Recognize elderlies' value of existence ○ Care for elderlies proactively and pay attention to employees' own psychological stress caused by handling suicidal cases • Understand relevant information related suicides among elderlies and use it as reference when formulating guidelines, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Causes of suicides among elderlies ○ Methods of assessing suicidal risk ○ Assess triggers of suicidal plans among elderlies ○ Skills to lead elderlies in disclosing their suicidal plans ○ Relevant community resources ○ Notes on referring the cases to relevant professional institutions <p>2. Establish guidelines on preventing suicides among elderlies</p> <p>Be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an effective assessment system; identify elderlies with high suicidal risk early on; assist elderly and their families to seek help as soon as possible • Lay down relevant procedures on handling elderlies with high suicidal risk according to the staff members' positions and responsibilities, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Immediate reporting procedures when healthcare professionals or nursing staff observe any abnormal behaviour ○ Social workers may hold a case discussion meeting when needed, communicate closely with different professionals and elderlies' families, formulate plans and follow up with elderlies' emotional changes and their suicidal risk ○ Healthcare professionals should carefully manage and distribute medication to elderlies; ensure they receive proper medical treatment

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a concrete working plan for preventing suicides among elderlies and to inform staff and elderlies' families the ways to prevent suicide among elderlies, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Differentiate different levels of risk factors ○ Guide elderlies to reveal their suicidal plan ○ Cooperate with the team to provide counselling for suicidal cases ○ Handle suicidal behaviours and formulate risk management plan • Provide training on the guidelines to prevent suicides among elderlies; ensure all staff members understand the aims and content of the guidelines, and their own duties under the guidelines; ensure they follow strictly • Review content of the guidelines regularly and update them when necessary <p>3. Exhibit professionalism</p> <p>Be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize efforts made by elderlies; respect the value of life and their choices • Assess and improve the handling mechanism properly according to changes in the society and elderlies' needs
Assessment Criteria	<p>The integrated outcome requirement of this Unit of Competency is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to establish a proper mechanism to prevent suicides among elderlies; review performance and effectiveness of the guidelines, and give advices for improvement.
Remark	