

5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on

# Family Nursing

June 13-15, 2016 Philadelphia, USA

## Suicide risk assessment in a high-risk population: The elderly

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Geriatric suicide is continuing to rise and, as the older population increases, so will the rate of suicide. The United States has the largest number of suicides within the elderly population. It is estimated that every hour and a half a geriatric individual will commit suicide. (CDC, 2010). Nurse practitioners (NP) and other primary care providers (PCP) are in ideal positions to be able to screen for at-risk individuals in the elder population. Some PCPs may not feel competent in screening for suicide (Graham, Rudd & Bryan, 2011 & Bostwick & Rackley, 2012). The NP/PCP should be able to collaborate with mental health professionals to facilitate counseling, medication, and other supportive services to reduce suicide risk and incidence. If primary care providers learn more about risk factors, assessment areas to explore and ways to improve treatment the incidence of suicidal behaviors will have better statistical odds of decreasing.

### Biography

Dr. B. Suzy Diggle-Fox has completed her PhD from Capella University as a Nurse Educator, Master's of Science from Hunter College as a Nurse Practitioner and her BSN from Downstate Medical Center as a Registered Nurse. In addition she has had experience as a Nurse's Aide and a Licensed Practical Nurse. She is both a Geriatric and an Adult Nurse Practitioner. Dr. B. S. Diggle-Fox has been a Geriatric Nurse Practitioner since 1988 and an Adult Nurse Practitioner since 1990 and has practiced within various areas. At present Dr. B. S. Diggle-Fox is a full-time tenure track faculty member at New York Institute of Technology. In addition, to being a Volunteer Nurse Practitioner for the Medical Reserve Corps and Geriatric Consultant for a medical school and their case studies for their medical students.

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