



Title Safety Plan? Tell Me More	Date 9.30.2026
Discipline/Version EMD Protocol Logic: 14.0.467 ProQA Program: 5.1.1.54	CDE Credit Hours .5

I verify that I read and am familiar with the contents of this document.

- ☒ PDF Attached
- ☐ YouTube Link:
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Safety Plan? Tell Me More..



In 2022, the concept of a **SAFETY PLAN** was added to MPDS Protocol 25 to address the emerging standard of care for patients experiencing a mental health crisis. Since its implementation, the Academy has continued to make protocol developments focused on how we handle calls involving mental health crisis patients.

The takeaway is that these calls often require additional information to help us better understand the patient's situation and provide the most appropriate response and/or patient care instructions.



The term “**safety plan**” might mean something different to each of us, but for protocol purposes, the IAED has a specific definition (located in the additional information tab for P25):

“A prioritized written list of coping strategies and sources of support that caretakers or patients who have been deemed to be at high risk for suicide can use. These plans can be used before or during a suicidal crisis. The plan is brief, usually in the patient’s own words, and is easy to read”

How it impacts protocol:

When someone calls 9-1-1 for a mental health crisis, they are seeking a higher level of assistance than they are able to provide on their own. Just as with any medical patient, providing appropriate care and guidance until responders arrive is an important part of what we do. This key question helps determine whether the patient already has a safety plan in place. If one exists, it provides an established course

of action specifically designed for that patient. By identifying that resource, protocol will guide us to direct the caller to follow the safety plan if they are not already doing so while waiting for responders to arrive.



Keep in mind that this Key Question is purple, meaning its use is jurisdictionally approved. For agencies that use it, the answer selected for the operator question regarding the type of incident will also determine whether the question is presented.

