

Max, a junior at your college, engages in frequent cutting behavior and talks frequently about this as his main coping mechanism while on campus. Other students are concerned about Max's behavior and share these concerns with two of his faculty. One of the faculty members shares these concerns with the campus BIT/CARE team.

Max has a few friends on campus, though many are tired of worrying after him and are frustrated with Max talking about his cutting. Max attends classes and, despite these challenges, has a 2.5 so far at college. Max says he cuts impulsively and without thinking too much about it. When asked if he cuts himself and thinks about suicide, he shrugs and gives no answer. Max denies being in counseling before and says he has never attempted suicide. He shares, "I just cut myself because it feels good for a moment."

Max makes a social media post about some of his recent self-injury and shares a picture of his arm covered in blood. The cut looks rather deep and the social media post results in several students filling out the BIT/CARE referral document. Campus police are called in to make a welfare check. EMTs are called and they bandage and treat Max's wound and since Max refuses to be transported to the hospital for an assessment, they say there isn't anything more they can do. The next day, there are numerous calls to the office of the president about Max's cutting behavior and the upset it is causing other students living around him.

**Student concern shared with BIT:** Student(s) reported (with screenshots) a student (Max) that has been cutting, and injuries appear to be deep. They noted they are concerned and have been seeing this take place over time and think someone needs to help him soon.

**Campus police welfare check:** Campus police report they responded to a call for a safety check for a person that cut themselves. EMTs were called to site and administer care. Both police and EMT ask if student was thinking about "doing anything worse" and student responded no. (Note: no indication if the student had been asked about suicide)

**RA report to their Administrator on Call (AOC):** Resident (Max) had medical treatment provided, had cuts on arm that needed attention. Have heard from floormates that they are "done" watching out for him and that he needs professional help.

**BIT/CARE note about incident:** Have had multiple reports about Max, people are worried about him, saying he is disconnected and is hurting himself. Campus police have been involved, providing a safety check, and having medical care rendered. Risk assessment needed as Max has been harming himself.

### **Sample of parent emails sent to the office of the president:**

- My son has reported to me that you have a student that is trying to kill himself, is anyone aware of this?
- My daughter has been watching over a male student that has been cutting his arms... in fact she and her suite mates have a schedule to check on him and are afraid he might kill himself. That's not their job! Can someone investigate this?
- There's a student in my son's class that shares pictures of his arms bleeding, and the police are involved. Did he get help?

### **Questions to consider of the case:**

- How would you campus handle this request?
- Could use some sample/feeder questions
- Are people that cut predisposed to suicide?
- Since Max seems suicidal, should he be hospitalized?
- Since Max is upsetting the community, should he be removed from the campus or at least the residence hall?
- What kind of help would be beneficial for Max?
- What is the school's obligation to help?
- Can student conduct be involved to correct behavior?