

Goal Setting

'SMART' Goals

When setting a goal for yourself it is always a good idea to make it a SMART one!

Specific and **Measurable**: Can I identify my goals? What do I want to achieve? How will I know when I have got there? How many? The questions ensure you can work out when you have achieved the goals, and celebrate the fact.

Achievable, **Realistic** and **Timebound**: Can I achieve this? What do I need? What are the likely problems? Am I being realistic? Do I believe this is possible? Am I willing and able to work for this? Can I do this in a reasonable time frame? The questions ensure you're not trying for the impossible.

Please write your goals in the space provided below.

	Self	Relationships	Work
Within one week			
Within one month			
Within own timeframe			



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GP Notes: Use of goal setting

Goal setting is a useful technique at any time but has many significant benefits for people who have been depressed and/or suicidal because:

1. It promotes a focus on the future.
2. It can be used in combination with problem-solving, a technique known to be an effective strategy for depression and deliberate self-harm.
3. It promotes the process of breaking down problems into small, achievable goals.
4. It can also highlight whether the goals are possible. Having impossible goals can increase a sense of anger, or frustration and helplessness.
5. It can be used by individuals, alone or in association with partners, families, colleagues.
6. It can promote useful discussion with significant others.
7. The 'within own time frame' section of the chart may refer to 'within a day', in the case of people who are feeling very overwhelmed by their depression; for others it may be further into the future 'within 6 months.....5 years'.

