

# **Veteran Emergent Suicide Care Brief:**

**\*VA COMPACT Act: Benefits went into affect Jan. 17, 2023**

**Attention Veterans:** If you are experiencing a mental health or suicidal crisis, call 911, 988 or go to the nearest emergency department immediately!

During a medical emergency, you should immediately seek care at the nearest emergency department (ED). A medical emergency is an injury, illness or symptom so severe that a delay in seeking immediate medical attention would be reasonably expected to be hazardous to life or health. If you believe your life or health is in danger, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away. During a medical emergency, VA encourages all Veterans to seek immediate medical attention without delay.

## **1. Where can they go?**

The bill states acute suicidal crisis is defined to mean an individual was determined to be at imminent risk of self-harm by a trained crisis responder or health care provider.

- A trained crisis responder would be available at a VA hospital, non-VA hospital, or a treatment center that can provide 24-hour care, who has a licensed health care provider on site. The veteran crisis line can also determine if a veteran can move to stabilization care or needs to be seen at a facility that provides 24-hour care.
- Crisis stabilization care is available if the individual was seen by the aforementioned and determined to no longer be at an imminent threat to themselves or others.

For example, a veteran who is eligible (defined below) can go to any facility mentioned to seek care if they meet the requirements. **(If they do not meet the requirements, the VA will bill them directly!)** They are able to stay in crisis care for up to 30 days to ensure they are no longer a threat to themselves or other people. After 30 days, they can be transferred to a stabilization care facility (i.e., Deer Hollow or the like). The stabilization care facility can keep them for up to 90 days to ensure they are ready to reintegrate back into their community.

## **2. Who is covered, who is not?**

A veteran is determined to qualify for care if they meet the following requirements (the caveat being, they can still qualify if they are eligible for VA care but are not enrolled):

- They present as a veteran of the military, including the reserve components, who served on active duty and were discharged either honorably or other than honorably. (They do not qualify if they were discharged dishonorably or via court martial.)
- They served in the military for 100 days or more and were deployed. (Including drone pilots)
- Were subject to unwarranted physical assault, battery, or harassment.

## **3. What services are available?**

- Services include ambulance transportation costs, follow-up inpatient or residential care related to the crisis event for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days (including social work).

#### **4. How to begin the process for coverage?**

- Inform the emergency care provider to report your emergency treatment to the VA Centralized Emergency Care Reporting Center within 72 hours before or after, your treatment starts. Use the VA Emergency Care Reporting portal or call the VA 72-Hour Notification Hotline at: **VA 72-Hour Notification Hotline: 844-72HRVHA (844-724-7842)**
- b.) You, or someone acting on your behalf, can also report the emergency treatment to the VA. The VA should only be notified once, and ideally that notification is from the community emergency facility where treatment is being conducted. If you have an urgent or emergent need to coordinate care or transfer to a VA medical center (VAMC), contact the nearest VAMC immediately.

#### **\*If you are a homeless veteran:**

Contact the VA Ntl. Call Center for Homeless Veterans ASAP at 1-877-424-3838

#### **VA contact numbers for VAMC's:**

##### **Idaho**

Facility: Boise VAMC

Daytime Phone Numbers for Community Care Providers: 208-422-1000 ext. 7370 After Hours

Contact for Community Care Provider (Manned 24/7): 208-422-1109 Fax Number for Medical

Record Submission: 208-422-1495

or email: [BOIOCCLeadership@va.gov](mailto:BOIOCCLeadership@va.gov)

##### **Utah**

Facility: Salt Lake VAMC

605-333-6800

(24/7) 605-336-3230 Ext. 6840

##### **Washington**

Facility: Spokane VAMC

509-484-7858 or 509-484-7969

(24/7) 509-434-7010

Facility: Walla Walla VAMC

Daytime: 509-527-3471

(24/7) 509-525-5200, ask for Health Admin Service

#### **How are payments made?**

Payments are submitted through the community care network; either Tricare, TriWest or through the mission act.

#### **Links for additional information:**

This is the bill laying out the ins and outs, as well the responsibilities of the government/Dept. of VA <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PLAW-116publ214/pdf/PLAW-116publ214.pdf>

This document is 44 pages in length and contains information on what a veteran is, how they attain services, and how services get paid to name a few.

<https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2023-00298.pdf>