



Emergency Suicide Care and Treatment

Veterans in suicidal crisis can go to any health care facility, at VA or in the community, for free emergency health care – including ambulance transportation and related prescription costs – inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days, and outpatient care for up to 90 days, including social work.

During a medical or mental health emergency, you should immediately seek care at the nearest emergency department and let staff know you are a Veteran. If you believe your life or health is in danger, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away. If possible, you should also take steps to safely store personally-owned weapons or ask a trusted individual to assist with securing them, when you believe you are in a mental health crisis.

You are covered if you were discharged from the military under a condition that is other than dishonorable and served more than 24 months of active service or more than 100 days under a combat exclusion or in support of a contingency operation either directly or by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle from another location. Former members of the armed forces who were the victim of a physical assault of a sexual nature, a battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment while serving in the armed forces are also eligible. The individual must also be determined to be in acute suicidal crisis by a health care provider or first responder to be clinically eligible for COMPACT.

Emergencies are never planned, so ensure you and your family member know where to go before you need help. Find your nearest community emergency room, urgent care facility or pharmacy by visiting the [VA Facility Locator](#).

What should a Veteran do if they are billed for emergency suicide-related care?

VA has developed an expedited review process specific to emergency suicide-related care to eliminate any additional stress during Veterans' time of need. If a Veteran receives a bill for emergency suicide care at a VA medical facility, they should contact their local VA patient advocate and ask for a clinical review with an appropriate provider. Veterans can also contact the number on their bill to initiate this process.

Veterans who received emergency suicide-related care at a community emergency department should submit a signed, written request for reimbursement to their local VA medical facility community care office along with an after-visit summary/medical documentation and a billing statement from the rendering provider showing diagnosis code information and an itemized list of charges. [VA Form 10-583, Claim for Payment of Cost of Unauthorized Medical Services](#) fulfills this requirement.

Veterans can use the [VA Facility Locator](#) to find their closest VA medical facility.