

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# COMPACT Act 201 – Emergent Suicide Care

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*VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention (OMHSP)*

*VA Office of Community Care*

*John D. Dingell VA Medical Center*

# COMPACT Act, Section 201



Section 201 of COMPACT Act states VA will provide, pay for and reimburse for emergent suicide care for eligible individuals at VA medical facilities and at non-Department facilities.



Eligible individuals include all Veterans regardless of eligibility for VHA health care benefits (includes OTH discharges).



Emergent suicide care includes inpatient or crisis residential care for no more than 30 days and/or outpatient medical and mental healthcare for no more than 90 days. If the individual remains in acute suicidal crisis, extensions may be provided. Each new crisis is a new episode of eligibility.



VA will ensure eligible Veterans are not financially responsible for costs associated with emergent suicide care, including emergency transportation.

## **COMPACT Act, Section 201 Impact:**

- VA providing cost-free mental health and medical emergent suicide care removes the cost barrier
- By extending eligibility and access to acute and follow up suicide care, the net of protection VA will provide to prevent suicide increases dramatically
- **COMPACT 201 benefit potentially increases eligibility to an additional 9 million unenrolled Veterans, potentially doubling the needed services**

**Emergent  
Suicide Care**

crisis stabilization care provided to an eligible individual following a recommendation from the Veterans Crisis Line or when such individual has presented at a VA or non-VA facility in an acute suicidal crisis.

**Acute Suicidal  
Crisis**

individual who is determined to be at imminent risk of self-harm by a trained crisis responder or health care provider.

**Crisis  
Stabilization  
Care**

care that ensures, to the extent practicable, immediate safety and reduces: the severity of distress; the need for urgent care; or the likelihood that the severity of distress or need for urgent care will increase during the transfer of that individual from a facility at which the individual has received care for that acute suicidal crisis.

**Crisis  
Residential  
Care**

emergent suicide care provided in a residential facility other than a hospital (that is not a personal residence) that provides 24-hour medical supervision.

## An Eligible Individual has **3 Paths** for Initiating Care for Emergent Suicidal Crisis:

They can call the Veterans Crisis Line (VCL) and be transported or self-transport to a VA, a community care facility or out of network community facility



They can call 911 and be transported to a VA, in-network or out-of-network community facility, or



They can simply show up (self-report) at a local VA or at an in-network or out of network community facility.



# Expansion of Suicide Prevention Efforts in the Community:

## What is Different?:

- VHA is ensuring that there is no cost associated with the episode of care.
- Enrolled and non-enrolled Veterans needing this benefit, receive this benefit.

## How is this Different?:

- Enhanced care coordination between administration decision makers and clinical care providers to support implementation.
- Additional post hospitalization services available to Veteran regardless of enrollment status at VHA.

# What is an Acute Suicidal Crisis?

- **Acute suicidal crisis means: an individual was determined to be at imminent risk of self-harm by a trained crisis responder or health care provider.**
  - Imminent risk of self-harm will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and includes clinical considerations such as:
    - Individual's state intent to harm themselves.
    - Individual's past or present behaviors that signal a risk of self-harm such as past suicide attempts
  - Trained Crisis responder means an individual who is adequately trained in crisis intervention and responds to emergency situations as part of their ordinary employment duties:
    - Veterans Crisis Line responders
    - Police or other law enforcement officials
    - Firefighters
    - Emergency medical technicians
  - Health care providers means a VA or non-VA provider who is licensed to practice healthcare by a state and who is performing within the scope of their practice as defined by a state or VA practice standard.

## Eligibility

- An individual is eligible for emergency suicide care if they have been determined to be in acute suicidal crisis, and such individual is either:
  - A former member of the Armed Forces (enrolled or not enrolled in VHA).
  - Honorably Discharged or Released from active duty after **more than 24 months** of service.

<OR>

- A former member of the Armed Forces, including Reserves, who:
  - Was discharged or released under a condition that is not honorable, but not dishonorable, or discharged by Court Martial.
  - Is not enrolled in the VHA system and either:
    - A. Served in the Armed Forces for **>100** cumulative days and was deployed in a theatre of combat.
    - B. Was a victim of sexual assault or sexual harassment while serving in the Armed Forces (must have 24 months or more of continuous active service, or a Service connection of 10% or greater).

# What are the services authorized under COMPACT Act?

- **Services authorized under COMPACT Act:**

- Up to 30 days of inpatient or crisis residential care related to the acute suicidal crisis.
- Up to 90 days of outpatient care related to the acute suicidal crisis, which includes both medical and mental health care.
- Prescription medications that are related to the acute suicidal crisis.
- Emergency suicide care and associated emergency transportation must be provided at no cost to the Veteran.
- VA will determine eligibility for additional VA services and benefits if the individuals receiving emergent suicide care are not enrolled or registered with the VA.
- VA will refer eligible individuals for appropriate services for which they are otherwise eligible, including social work.



# VA Community Care Notification

- Under the COMPACT Act, Community Hospitals and Veterans have a period of **up to 180 days** to submit claims to the VA for care provided for a suicidal crisis.
  - **ALL** other medical and/or mental health care being provided to a Veteran presenting to a community hospital emergency department outside of endorsed suicidal ideations/acute suicidal crisis continue to fall under the VHA 72 hour . emergency care notification/reporting policy.
- **Information requested for claim:**
  - Name
  - Gender
  - Social Security Number
  - Date of birth
  - Address
  - Date presenting and date of discharge (if applicable)
  - Originating address
  - Mode of arrival
  - Other health insurance
  - Facility NPI, name, address, and points of contact

Please continue to call the VA Emergency notification number when a Veteran presents in an acute suicidal crisis.

**1-844-72HRVHA (1-844-724-7842)**

OR

Notify the VA through the VA's Emergency Care Reporting Portal:

<https://EmergencyCareReporting.CommunityCare.va.gov>

# Community and VA Post-Discharge Care Coordination

- **Detroit VA has a collaborative interdisciplinary team to include:**  
Office of Community Care (OCC), Mental Health Providers, and Suicide Prevention.
- **Detroit VA Medical Center Office of Community Care assists in:**  
Care coordination, discharge planning, and facilitates requests to transfer to DVA.
  - **Community Care Points of Contact:**
    - Mitchell Gerangaya, RN: 313.576.1000, x61886
    - Isabel Hill, RN: 313.576.1000, x61098
    - Tiffini Jones, RN: 313.576.1000, x65629

- **Mental Health Post-Discharge Follow-up Care:**
  - Appointments will continue to be arranged by the local VA Medical Center for Veterans following discharge from a psychiatric inpatient hospitalization.
  - Veterans who are flagged high risk for suicide by the local VA Medical Center will case manage the Veteran's care and coordinate **4 post-discharge appointments**
    - Mental Health Services include: Psychiatry, Psychotherapy, Peer Support, Groups, Mental Health Nursing, Suicide Prevention, Homeless Services, and Suicide Prevention 2.0.
    - Additional care coordination available includes: medical care, social work, housing, education, employment and legal services.
  - Veterans who do not meet high risk flagging criteria for suicide will have **3 post-discharge appointments** coordinated through the VA Medical Center Mental Health Program.

- **Detroit VA Medical Center Suicide Prevention Team:**
  - Luna Nasreen, LMSW, Suicide Prevention Coordinator: 313.576.1000, x64212
  - Bethany Piccinato, LMSW, CAADC Suicide Prevention Coordinator: 313.576.1000, x64212
  - Teena Sawicki, LMSW Suicide Prevention and Reach Vet Coordinator: 313.576.1000, x65794
  - Cori Starr, LMSW Suicide Prevention Coordinator: 313.576.1000, x61804
- **• Suicide Prevention Team Email: [VHADET\\_Suicide\\_Prevention\\_Team@DVAGOV.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:VHADET_Suicide_Prevention_Team@DVAGOV.onmicrosoft.com)**
- **Detroit VA Medical Center Outpatient Mental Health Clinic:**
  - Post Discharge Follow-up Scheduling: **313.576.1000, x66359**

- **What happens if an eligible individual continues to require care associated with the crisis beyond the 30-day inpatient and 90-day outpatient authorization?**
  - Either period of care, (inpatient or outpatient), can be extended by VA, if it determines the eligible individual continues to require care to address the effects of the acute suicidal crisis.
  - 30-day extensions are granted one time only for inpatient and outpatient care per COMPACT Act episode of care.
- **What happens if an eligible individual has an additional suicidal crisis?**
  - A new and separate 30/90-day period for providing medical and mental health care begins with each acute suicidal crisis. The new crisis does not affect the period of care for the previous acute suicidal crisis.



# Resources

- VHA Office of Mental Health & Suicide Prevention
  - [Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care & Treatment \(COMPACT\) Act](#)
  - [COMPACT Act Section 201 Overview FAQ for VHA Direct Patient Care Staff](#)
  - [COMPACT Act Section 201 Overview – VAMC Veteran and Eligible Individual FAQ](#)
- [H.R. 8247 – Veterans COMPACT Act of 2020](#)