



# Emergency Suicide Care and Treatment

Veterans in suicidal crisis can go to any health care facility, at VA or in the community, for emergency health care – including ambulance transportation and related prescriptions – inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and crisis-related outpatient care for up to 90 days at no out-of-pocket cost.

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.

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](#).

## Eligibility

You are eligible if you were discharged from the military under a condition that is not dishonorable or the result of a general court martial and served prior to September 7, 1980.

If you enlisted or were commissioned after September 7, 1980, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981:

- You were discharged for a disability that was caused – or made worse – by your active-duty service.
- You were discharged for a hardship or “early out.”

If you were discharged under other than honorable conditions, you are eligible if you:

- Served 100 cumulative days in a combat zone or in support of a contingency operation either directly or by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle from another location.
- 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.

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

If you receive a bill after receiving care during or after a suicidal crisis, call or visit your local VA medical center’s patient advocate to start the review process.

- If you received your care at a VA medical center, you can also call the number on the bill to begin the review process.
- If care was provided at a non-VA facility, submit a signed [VA Form 10-583](#), *Claim for Payment of Cost of Unauthorized Medical Services* with a billing statement from the rendering provider showing diagnosis code information and a receipt of your payment to your local VA medical facility patient advocate.

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