

## SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Contractor shall follow established Medical Center policy when a positive Mental Health Screen or positive Suicide Screen is obtained. Safety plans are to be created and completed with patient input for all Veterans assigned a Suicide Behavior Flag. Veterans shall be provided with a copy of the safety plan.

### [X] Contractor supported/VA provided Telemental Health Delivery

*NOTE: Very large sites (i.e. CBOC's) treating 10,000 patients or more, must maintain a Suicide Prevention Coordinator (SPC) with a full-time commitment to suicide prevention activities.*

*NOTE: Mechanisms for support may include appointing more than one SPC, appointing care managers for high-risk patients, or providing program support assistants.*

The SPC's commitment to suicide prevention activities must include, but is not limited to:

- (1) Tracking and reporting on veterans determined to be at high risk for suicide and veterans who attempt suicide;
- (2) Responding to referrals from the National Suicide Prevention Hotline and other staff;
- (3) Training staff who have contact with patients, including clerks, schedulers, and those who are in telephone contact with veterans, so they know how to get immediate help when veterans express any suicide plan or intent;
- (4) Collaborating with community organizations and partners, and providing training to their staff members who have contact with veterans;
- (5) Providing general consultation to providers concerning resources for suicidal individuals, as well as expertise and direction in the areas of system design to prevent suicidal deaths within their local VA medical centers.
- (6) Working with providers to ensure that:
  - (a) Monitoring and treatment is intensified for high risk patients; and
  - (b) High-risk patients receive education and support about approaches to reduce risks.
- (7) Reporting on a monthly basis to mental health leadership and the National Suicide Prevention Coordinator on the veterans who attempted or completed suicide along with requested data that is used to determine characteristics and risks associated with these groups of veterans. **NOTE:** *This information is tracked and trended on a national level by the Center of Excellence at Canandaigua, NY.*

Ensure patient safety and in order to initiate problem-solving about any tensions or difficulties in the patient's ongoing care. The Contractor's SPC and each patient's principal mental health providers must work together to monitor high-risk patients to ensure that both their suicidality and their mental health or medical conditions are addressed.

d. Each VA medical center must establish a high risk for suicide list and a process for establishing a Category II Patient Record Flag (PRF) to help ensure that patients determined to be at high risk for suicide are provided with follow up for all missed mental health and substance abuse appointments (see current VHA policy for more detailed information).

***NOTE:*** Contractor site shall support and implement each component of VA's Suicide Prevention Program, and supports the activities of the SPCs by ensuring they have the time and resources needed.