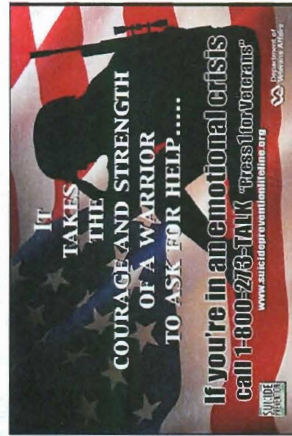




VA Suicide Prevention Program

Every Veteran suicide is a tragic outcome and regardless of the numbers or rates, one Veteran is too many. Even though we understand why some may be at increased risk, we are continuing to investigate and taking proactive steps based on information we already know, with the ultimate goal of eliminating suicides among Veterans.



Individuals who have survived serious suicide attempts have clearly stated that they wished someone had shown interest.

Today may be the hardest day of your life...

Where there is HELP, there is HOPE — just a phone call away.

**Hines VA Hospital
708.202.VETS (8387)**

**Veterans Crisis Line
1.800.273.TALK (8255)
Press 1 for Veterans**

Suicide Prevention Program



**“Suicide Prevention
is
Everyone’s Business”**

"Suicide Prevention is Everyone's Business"

24/7 Veterans Crisis Line

Veterans call the national suicide hotline number 1.800.273.8255 and can press 1 to reach a trained VA professional who can deal with any immediate crisis.

**Veterans
Crisis Line**



1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1

Suicide Prevention Coordinators

Each VA Medical Center has a Suicide Prevention Coordinator (SPC) or Team. The coordinators and their teams ensure that the Veteran receives the appropriate services. Calls from the Veterans Crisis Line are referred to the coordinators, who follow up with Veterans and coordinate their care.

SPCs educate & train all staff at their facility with Operative S.A.V.E.—a VA specific suicide awareness program.

S.A.V.E

Signs of Suicidal Thinking

Ask the questions

Validate the Veteran's experience

Encourage & Expedite the Veteran to help

High Risk for Suicide Flags

Screening & Assessment processes have been set up throughout the VA system to assist in the identification of Veterans at risk for suicide. A chart "flagging" system has been developed to assure continuity of care and provide awareness among providers. The Suicide Prevention Coordinators monitor patients with these flags and place on the facility's High Risk for Suicide List.

Veterans with a High Risk for Suicide Flag are closely followed by the Suicide Prevention Team for a minimum of 90 days and provided with an enhanced level of care:

- ◆ Case Management by Suicide Prevention Team
- ◆ Missed appointment follow up
- ◆ Safety Planning
- ◆ Weekly Mental Health appointments
- ◆ Treatment planning that specifically addresses their suicidality

Education & Outreach

Suicide Prevention Coordinators are required to do outreach activities in all of their local communities. They are able to educate returning Veterans, families, Veterans Service Organizations, and other community groups on suicide awareness & prevention.

The VA sponsors a weeklong campaign every September for Suicide Prevention Week to increase awareness of suicide.

The VA has developed various materials including brochures, magnets, and stress balls that promote awareness of the hotline number and educate employees, Veterans, and their community about how to identify someone who may be at risk.

Hines VA Hospital Suicide Prevention Team

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