

Access to Emergent Mental Health Services for Other Than Honorable Discharged Servicemembers

VA exercised existing legal authority to expand the provision of emergent mental health care to former servicemembers with administrative discharged under Other Than Honorable (OTH) conditions. This decision was driven by the need to reduce the number of suicides and treat mental illness in at-risk populations. There are an estimated 450,000 individuals that may become eligible for this benefit.

This is for emergent mental health services ONLY. Individuals may enter the system by **contacting the Veterans Crisis Line, or by visiting a VA Emergency Department, VA Urgent Care Center, or Vet Center.**

Follow-up outpatient, residential, and inpatient mental health and substance use disorder services may be provided for one episode of up to 90 days (beginning July 5, 2017), with social work engagement and transition to longer term, non-VA covered community care and appropriate transition of medical needs.

NOTE: VA does NOT have the legal authority to utilize Community Care authorities to authorize servicemembers with OTH discharges care in the community at VA expense. Humanitarian billing rates may apply if deemed ineligible for VA healthcare.

Veterans in crisis should call the

Veterans Crisis Line at 800-273-8255 (press 1), or text 838255.