

Implementing Caring Contacts for Suicide Prevention in Non-Mental Health Settings



Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System

Why this research is important:

This research is important because not all Veterans who experience suicidal ideation or suicidal behavior have mental health diagnoses and/or do not engage in mental health services. Focusing on non-mental health settings such as the emergency department broadens the scope of suicide prevention and also allows reach to a greater proportion of the Veterans we serve.

Summary:

Caring Contacts a simple and effective suicide prevention intervention that involves sending patients who have been suicidal brief, non-demanding expressions of care and concern at specified intervals over a year or more. It has been shown to reduce suicide ideation, suicide attempts, and death by suicide. This project will 1) adapt Caring Contacts for use in the emergency department at VA and 2) create an implementation toolkit to spread Caring Contacts to other facilities.

How the research will improve Veterans' lives:

This research will improve Veterans' lives by providing additional outreach and suicide prevention intervention for Veterans who visit the emergency department. It will also determine how best to spread this intervention to other facilities to reach more Veterans.



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