

What can Tele-Mental Health Services Offer Hospice Care?

Hospice care teams are well equipped to address much of the psychological suffering of Veterans and families at end-of-life.

However, veterans often present with a challenging combination of mental health issues (i.e. PTSD, suicidality, and moral injury) that may require more specialized and targeted mental health treatment. The Palliative Care/Hospice Psychologist has expertise in addressing the complex mental health needs of veterans at end-of-life.

How Care is Provided:

- Via Video Telehealth using VA's HIPPA-compliant VA Video Connect telehealth service
- VA-issued iPads can be provided to veterans who do not have a video telehealth capable device
- Telephone services are available when video telehealth is not workable or appropriate (i.e. insufficient internet/cellular connectivity)

Please Contact the Palliative Care/Hospice Psychologist or Coordinator to Access Services:

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VA Tele-Mental Health Services in Hospice Care

Information for Hospice Teams

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Psychologists in Palliative and Hospice Care

Palliative Care/Hospice

Psychology is an area of psychology practice that aims to relieve physical, psychological, spiritual distress, and suffering in Veterans with serious and advanced illness.

These services extend to those in hospice care, and are provided via telehealth (video or telephone) to veterans enrolled in home hospice.

The Palliative Care/Hospice Psychologist Role Includes:

- Providing individual psychotherapy tailored to the needs of Veterans enrolled in hospice:
 - Modifications to session length to account for fatigue, symptom burden (as appropriate)
 - Compressed course of treatment to quickly alleviate suffering (as appropriate)
- Providing consultation to family members and hospice staff to assist with symptom management
- Collaborating with other Treatment Providers as needed.

Psychology Services in Hospice Care Can Help With:

- Suicide risk assessment and management
- Assessment and treatment of PTSD and other trauma-related syndromes
- Addressing Moral Injury
 - *Moral Injury* is the distressing psychological, behavioral, and spiritual aftermath of exposure to events that contradict deeply held moral beliefs and expectations.
- Providing care to veterans with cognitive decline (dementia or delirium) co-presenting with trauma-related symptoms