

Vermont Emergency Department Suicide Prevention Quality Improvement Initiative

The Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care, Inc. (VPQHC) is now enrolling hospitals in the Vermont Suicide Prevention in the Emergency Department (ED) Quality Improvement Initiative. This initiative is supported through a public-private partnership. The purpose is to drive monetary, educational, and networking resources to Vermont hospitals to focus on tailored initiatives for improving the quality of care for suicidal patients presenting to EDs.

**Enrollment
Deadline:
March 18,
2022**

[Click here to enroll](#)

This project will focus on evidence-based suicide prevention efforts within the ED setting:

- Suicide screening & assessment
- Brief intervention - safety planning, lethal means counseling
- Transitions of care & caring contacts

Participation Requirements

Timeframe: February 2022 - December 2022



Submit a Letter of Intent to participate & complete organizational assessment



Identify a suicide prevention quality improvement project, and accompanying metric(s) to impact; report out on progress at 6 and 12-month marks



Establish a suicide prevention in the ED implementation team



Engage in suicide prevention in the ED educational and networking opportunities



Commit to training core ED staff on Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM)

VPQHC

Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care, Inc.

What are the benefits of participating?



Minigrant in the amount of \$12,500



Membership in a peer learning community including other Vermont hospitals



Educational stipend to support improvement work (up to \$1,500)



Access to high-quality, tailored, educational programming



Focused mock survey (and ongoing technical assistance) either for:

- o CMS Conditions of Participation
- o The Joint Commission

Core suicide prevention focus across all hospitals



Technical assistance and ongoing quality improvement support from the VPQHC team

Emergency Department visits offer a window of opportunity to deliver life-saving suicide prevention interventions.

- The rates of self-harm and death by suicide in Vermont are significantly higher than the United States (Centers for Disease Control, 2019).
- During the first three months of 2021, there was a spike in suicide-related ED visits for young Vermonters. (Vermont Department of Health)
- In a recent study on pediatric patients boarding in Vermont Emergency Departments, it was found that the majority of children presented with suicidal ideation or a suicide attempt, which was also the most common disposition diagnosis.