

## **Application for NAVAC Specialty Competency Certification in Suicide Prevention**

**Application Format:** The application must address all of the subsections listed below, in a total of no more than 12 - 15 pages of narrative (standard margins, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman); with additional pages appended for certificates (CET1), references (REF1, REF2, REF3), training attestation (CET3).

### **PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Name:

Title:

Mailing address:

Work phone:

Cell phone:

E-mail address:

VA Medical Center:

Position:

**You must be a NAVAC Board Certified Chaplain and be current with NAVAC dues. Include email from Certification Chair showing paid up status and a copy of BCC.**

**Current Resume (3 pages)**

### **Section 1. Certifications, Experience and Training (CET):**

CET1: Be a NAVAC Board Certified Chaplain (BCC)

CET2: Demonstrate significant, current, advanced clinical practice in Suicide Prevention, by documenting a minimum of 500 clinical hours or 2 years, to include all of the following modalities:

*An optional Template is posted under the Suicide Prevention Specialty at NAVAC.net, for tracking the self-attested hours for CET2 and CET3. Alternately, REF1 writers must provide attestation to each of the specific CET2 requirements below.*

CET2. a. Active participation as the spiritual care provider in one or more Interdisciplinary treatment teams where patient suicide risk is routinely addressed, and where chaplain participation results in appropriate discussion, referrals, consults and treatment recommendations to reduce suicide risk. (*Self-attestation and REF1*)

CET2. b. Provision of at least 40 unique complex / extended encounters demonstrating provision of Spiritual Care for Suicide Ideation as well as Suicide Postvention Care for Bereaved Families and Staff. (*Self-attestation and REF1. Documentary evidence such as (redacted) list of workload encounters, consults, or other similar tracking encouraged/expected.*)

CET2. c. Teaching of four or more 60 minute “In-service Training” or equivalent activities – to train VA colleagues in any aspect of chaplaincy role in suicide prevention. (*Self-attestation and REF1.*

*Documentary evidence such as a PowerPoint, podcast, or training flyer encouraged/expected.*)

CET2. d. Participation in Community Outreach for suicide prevention, with at least four different examples of: helping to plan or officiate a community vigil or suicide prevention activity, training local clergy, serving as a guest speaker, participating on a community suicide prevention council, publishing an article, etc. (*Self-attestation and REF1. Documentary evidence such as a PowerPoint, podcast, bulletin, program flyer, or publication encouraged/expected.*)

CET2. e. Documentation of at least 20 hours of Suicide Postvention Bereavement Support, with two different examples, for example provision of funerals, memorials, grief counseling, creation and facilitation of a suicide survivor grief group, bereavement calls, or other similar activities to support survivors. (*Self-attestation, documentary evidence, REF1 and REF3*)

CET3: Completion of 80 hours of Continuing Clinical Education in Suicide Prevention, with at least 25% of this training specific to the intersection of spirituality, spiritual care and suicide prevention, and including all of the following modalities:

*In lieu of the below requirements, all initial continuing education requirements for this specialty certification may be fulfilled by completion of the VHA Chaplain Advanced Education (CAVE) Suicide Prevention specialty track.*

CET3. a. Standard TMS course on Suicide; these course numbers and titles change frequently, so no specifics will be cited here, but the expectation is the most current standard TMS training for clinicians. (*Certificates or self-attestation with annotated list indicating items completed and key learnings.*)

CET3. b. Contact hours for other suicide-related webinars, grand rounds, TMS trainings, suicide prevention symposium, outside training, etc. (over 100 topics/year are available online from TMS, plus many more are available free from national suicide prevention websites, see Recommended Reading and Resources). (*Certificates or self-attestation with annotated list indicating items completed and key learnings.*)

CET3. c. Reading journal articles and books, viewing documentaries, or reviewing web resources from the list of ‘Recommended Reading and Resources’ (*Self-attestation with annotated list indicating items completed and key learnings.*)

CET3. d. Completion of peer reviewed simulation training in Suicide Prevention – intervention and counseling skills. (*Certificates or peer-attestation, or self-attestation with annotated list indicating items completed and key learnings.*)

CET3. e. Training in Safety Planning including Reduction of Lethal Means. (*Certificates or self-attestation with annotated list indicating items completed and key learnings.*)

CET3. f. Training related to Postvention Care including healing from traumatic grief and postvention protocols. (*Certificates or self-attestation with annotated list indicating items completed and key learnings.*)

## **Section 2. Competencies:**

### Clinical Suicide Prevention Competencies:

COMP1. a. Describe your protocol, tools and resources to safely manage a patient with active suicide ideation, in each of the following venues: inpatient; telephone/telehealth; outpatient walk-in; clinical group setting; community setting. (*Short narrative and REF2.*)

COMP1. b. Explain your protocol for screening and documenting suicide risk behavior, your use of safety plans, and how this care is communicated and integrated in the interdisciplinary team. (*Short narrative and REF2.*)

COMP1. c. List VA resources and community referrals that you might include in a plan of care for an individual who reports chronic non-acute suicide ideation. (*Short narrative and REF2.*)

Spiritual Care Suicide Prevention Competencies (In addition to suicide prevention competencies such as those above, which every interdisciplinary clinician should master, the following competencies are specific to the practice of pastoral care):

COMP2. a. Concisely explain the chaplain's unique role and contribution in suicide prevention, using three different scripts based on your audience: a. Your inter-disciplinary colleagues, b. Your hospital administrators / leaders, and c. Your patients. (*Short narrative and REF2.*)

COMP2. b. Explain how you navigate issues related to clergy confidentiality, therapeutic trust and mandatory reporting in the healthcare chaplaincy environment. (*Short narrative and REF2.*)

COMP2. c. Describe how you assess for underlying or unspoken spiritual conditions that are associated with suicidal ideation and how this informs the plan of care. Give two different examples using (redacted) case examples if possible. (Examples: loss of purpose and meaning; abandonment; moral injury; grief; shame; broken relationships). (*Short narrative and REF2.*)

COMP2. d. Describe typical spiritual and religious concerns for bereavement after a death by suicide, and how you address these pastorally. (*Short narrative and REF2.*)

COMP2. e. Demonstrate skill and commitment in keeping abreast of best practices in Suicide Prevention. Give 2 examples from the last 2 years of staying current. (*Short narrative.*)

### **Section 3. References: (All Required)**

REF1: A recommendation letter from a Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Mental Health provider or Program Manager (or equivalent), describing the candidate's involvement with suicide prevention (*Section 1, CET2*).

REF2: A recommendation letter from a mental health or chaplain sponsor, including a checklist assessing the competencies in Section 2 (*Competent YES/NO/Not observed*).

REF3: A thank-you card or testimony from a patient, family, staff member, redacted for privacy.

REF4: Chaplain Service Chief Endorsement:

Your completed application has been reviewed by your Chaplain Service Chief, and letter of endorsement and recommendation is attached.

**Payment: Please send the \$50 payment check to:**  
**NAVAC,**  
**PO Box 1631**  
**Newport News, VA 23601**

**E-Mail your complete application to:**

Chaplain David E. Lefavor, D.Min, BCC  
Chairman, NAVAC Chaplain Credentialing

[NAVACBCC@gmail.com](mailto:NAVACBCC@gmail.com)

**Section 4. Interview Panel:**

After the NAVAC Specialty Chair deems the Application complete, the candidate will be invited to meet virtually with a 3-person interview panel comprised of subject matter experts including two Suicide Prevention Specialty Certified Chaplains and one inter-disciplinary colleague with appropriately extensive suicide prevention experience. The interview will be approximately one hour in length and will utilize standard performance-based questions representative of the specialty competencies.

2/09/2021 CEC