

Supplemental Data Table Patient perceptions of acceptability and effectiveness of SPI-SFU	
Theme	Response
<i>Mitigating Risk</i>	“I was having problems with suicidal thoughts. This was a way to help me deal with the crisis and not let it overwhelm me. Having a way to handle it.”
<i>Maintaining Safety</i>	“Getting a safety plan and working with Kate saved me. I was in such distress when I got here. The SAFE VET program saved my life”;
<i>Recommending SAFE VET intervention to others</i>	“I would definitely recommend working with Kate doing Safety planning and follow-up calls. I would tell them that it saved my life.”; “I think it is something they should always have and keep. It is something they should get others in my situation involved in, it is a wonderful program”; “Keep going. The government can't put enough money into this program. All the money in the world needs to be dumped into this program.”
<i>Attending Follow-up Appointments</i>	“I think if it wasn't for the safety plan and follow up calls that I wouldn't be attending my mental health appointments. I have a lot of anger and the mental health appointments help me. It is important, before the safety plan I didn't know who to call. Now I have someone to call.”
<i>Felt Connected to VA</i>	Yeah, I felt very connected and cared for when I was in the Safe Vet program. People were watching out for me in a positive way.
<i>Using the Safety Plan</i>	“I felt really really depressed. I called the hotline first, then went to the safety plan. Then I called my brother-in-law, then my friend. Talked to my friend for about 30min to an hour and it relieved my anxiety. When you do something to take your mind off it, it helps a lot”; “I felt the information on there was necessary for me given my situation. I carry my safety plan with me always. When the thoughts come up I take it out and use it. I try to stop the thinking before it takes over”; “Yes, I made the plan a part of me. I got really serious about changing my life and now the safety plan is second nature. I don't let stuff get to me like it use to.”
<i>Satisfied with Safety Plan</i>	“Having the steps to be able to try to lift my spirits. Knowing that I have the steps written down, just in case I start feeling bad and can't think on my own, I know it's written down on the paper was very helpful”; “Safety plan was a great idea. I had a few life-threatening situations, and the list that I made up saved me”; “Thank God for this whole procedure that I have gone through, thank God for it. I still have my bad days, but now I have a safety plan. For the most part it has been a blessing.”
<i>Recommending Safety Planning to others</i>	“I think everyone that has problem ought to have this program. Safety planning works.”

*Using the Structured
Follow-Up*

“She always made me feel comfortable. We went over the safety plan a few times. She's one of my favorites. She's really great”; “We spoke about some of the things I could do to get myself sober, going to counseling sessions, talked about going to detox, and going to a rehab. We used to talk about that. She told me that killing myself was not the answer, she showed me that there are other ways. She told me that I was brave and that I could make it, even when I didn't believe it”; “Hearing her voice was helpful, when you are alone and there is a voice on the other end of the phone that cares may be all you need to survive that day. There are not words to explain how grateful I am to [the ASC]. I would not be here talking to you like this if it wasn't for [her], she helped me through the darkest time of my entire life. I would not have been able to talk to you like this a year ago.”

*Providing Support and
Feeling Connected to the
VA*

“It was helpful that she called, so it gave me the impression that she wasn't just doing her job, but was really concerned about helping me”; “Knowing that someone cared, that was the biggest thing. Someone took the time to call to see if I was okay. That means a lot”; “She wanted to make sure that I knew that VA was there for me”; “Just receiving a call from the VA is very helpful. Back in the day, the VA wasn't like this, but now, they seem to care.”

*Satisfied with Structured
Follow-Up*

“It was a very good service that I totally appreciated it's availability for me at the time when I needed it”; “Every call I got was helpful. She is the one who takes care of me. I wouldn't be talking to you now if it wasn't for [the ASC]”
