



Department of Veterans Affairs
VA Puget Sound Health Care System
American Lake and Seattle Divisions
Office of Public Affairs
1660 South Columbian Way
Seattle, WA 98108
(206) 764-2435 / (206) 764-2317
Email: pugetsoundpublicaffairs@med.va.gov

Fact Sheet
April 30, 2009

HOOD CANAL BRIDGE CLOSURE IMPACT ON VA PUGET SOUND PATIENTS ON THE OLYMPIC PENINSULA

- For six weeks, beginning Friday May 1, 2009 through June 15, 2009, the Hood Canal Bridge connecting the Olympic and Kitsap Peninsulas will be closed for a major reconstruction project.
- Approximately 270 VA Puget Sound patients (Veterans) residing on the Olympic Peninsula could be directly impacted by this temporary closure.
- As a result, VA Puget Sound Health Care System is arranging temporary expansion of services on the Peninsula at targeted locations so that Veterans who chose to do so, can access care closer to home during this transition. For those who chose or need to drive around, VA Puget Sound has developed a partnership to eliminate the driving hassles for patients.

Mobile Medical Unit in Port Townsend:

- In partnership with Jefferson Hospital (located in Port Townsend), VA Puget Sound will have its mobile medical unit (MMU) located at 834 Sheridan Ave, in the parking lot.
- Hours are Monday May 4th through Thursday May 7th and again from Tuesday morning May 26th return Thursday May 28th from 8am-4pm.
- The Mobile Medical Unit will be available on a “walk-in” basis for acute primary care patients. Patients with already scheduled VA Puget Sound appointments during May and June will be contacted individually by phone by their providers.
- Patients with already scheduled VA Puget Sound appointments during May and June will be contacted individually by phone by their providers. Patients with routine questions about their health care will complete a phone appointment with their provider at that time. Veterans with health concerns who need to be seen by a health care provider will be able to use the MMU or travel to Seattle for their regularly scheduled appointment. Questions regarding the Mobile Medical Unit can be addressed by Chris Foster 206-306-6123.

Specialty Care Visits:

- Specialty Care patients will be contacted by the VA to determine the most appropriate location for their care.

- Specialty Care patients will not be seen in the Mobile Medical Unit.
- These patients should contact their provider with specific concerns.

VA/DAV Travel Program:

- For those patients who rely on the VA's travel reimbursement program or the DAV shuttle vans for their transportation to Seattle, VA Puget Sound has developed a temporary shuttle solution.
- In partnership with VFW, DAV and Dungeness Lines have developed a plan to help minimize difficulties.
- Two round-trip shuttle services per day will travel to and from Port Angeles to Seattle and back via the DAV Shuttle service.
- For more information about Veteran travel, please contact Marilyn McPherson at 1- 800 329-8387 Extension - enter*71313.
- This shuttle service is offered only to Veterans with scheduled appointments.
- Veterans who use the DAV van service from the Olympic Peninsula have been contacted by to ensure arrangements are made.

###

For more information about the Hood Canal Bridge Project, visit <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr104hoodcanalbridgeeast/> or call (253) 305-6400.

Media concerns can be directed to VA Puget Sound Public Affairs at (206)764-2317 or pugetsoundpublicaffairs@med.va.gov.