

*Leading Health Care
In The 21st Century*



*Geriatrics and Extended
Care Programs*



Nursing Home Care

Nursing home care is provided to veterans who do not need to be in the hospital but require nursing and related medical or psychosocial services. VA nursing home care is a hospital-based program that focuses on “transitional care.” The program is designed to help the patient return to a community setting. This might include returning home, going to an adult care home, or to a community nursing home. Even if a patient leaves a VA nursing home, they are still able to receive the help they need from the VA.



Community Nursing Home

The community nursing home program places patients who need nursing home care into a community nursing home at VA expense. VA pays the nursing home costs for eligible patients (for a limited time) until other funding (such as Medicaid) can be arranged.

Geriatric Primary Care

Geriatric primary care is designed to meet the complex health care needs of elderly veterans and those with chronic illness. Patients receive basic, general health care from a primary care doctor. When a patient's needs become too complex, they are referred to geriatric primary care. Memory disorders are an example of a complex medical condition that may require geriatric primary care.



Dementia Care Management

Dementia is a condition that affects the brain. Memory loss is one of the first signs. Other signs can be changes in personality or behavior. Speaking clearly might also become a problem. The geriatrics and extended care line offers help with the diagnosis, treatment, and care for dementia. There are professional Dementia Care Managers at each medical center.

Early diagnosis allows patients and their family time to try treatment options. It also gives them time to connect with support groups and make practical plans for the future.

Respite

Respite provides caregivers a “break” from their care giving duties. Respite care is provided if a caregiver becomes sick, needs to go out of town, or simply needs a break from the stress of providing “around-the-clock” care to a patient. Respite can be key in helping the veteran live at home for as long as possible. Respite care is available for up to one month per year.

Palliative Care

Similar to hospice, palliative care is for veterans who are nearing the end of their life due to an illness. The goal of palliative care is to reduce the patient’s pain and discomfort and to help them be as comfortable as possible in a home-like setting. The patient and family’s personal choices are supported, through “around-the-clock” family visits and “life celebrations.” A variety of activities help enrich the meaning and quality of the patient’s life.



Advanced Illness Care Coordination

The advanced illness coordinated care program is a comprehensive approach to advanced illness/end of life care. The program uses a case management approach to integrate a six-visit intervention by a nurse or social worker.

The intervention visits help reduce barriers to palliative care by introducing advanced illness and end-of-life discussions among doctors, nurses and patients; ensuring support for quality advanced illness care; and providing patient centered care that encourages mutual-participation relationships, informed choice, and patient autonomy.



Adult Day Health Care

Adult day health care strives to maintain or improve the health of patients. This enables family members and other caregivers to continue to care for the patient in his/her home.

This program may be offered through a VA managed program or through a community-based program that the VA pays for. During the day, veterans receive care in a safe, structured setting and return to their own homes at night. Adult day health care programs focus on general health care and the social needs of the patient.



Skilled Home Care

Skilled home care provides certain health care services in the patient's home. Services may include nursing care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and social work. Care is provided under the direction of a VA doctor or contracted doctor. Care may include catheter irrigation/changes, colostomy bag changes, and dressing changes. Help with medications, prosthetics, massage, turning, positioning and transferring, may also be included. Spinal cord injury patients may receive bathing assistance via fee-basis.

Homemaker/Home Health Aide

The homemaker/home health aide program permits the VA to pay for homemaker and home health aide assistance for veterans. The program supports veterans living at home instead of being placed in a nursing home. The types of services provided include assistance with bathing, dressing, eating, toileting, and getting in or out of bed or wheelchair. Other services can include help with walking, exercises, using medical equipment, and health monitoring. In some cases, specific household tasks such as light housekeeping or shopping may be provided.



Home Based Primary Care

Home based primary care (HBPC) is a special program that provides primary health care in the home. For the severely disabled or chronically ill patients, HBPC manages:

- Patients with complex medical problems. These problems require long-term care to maintain the patient's health status or slow its decline.
- Patients with a terminal illness.
- Certain patients with relatively short-term problems. These patients need health care services, home training, and home adaptation.

Services are provided until the patient can be properly cared for in an outpatient clinic.

Community Residential Care

The community residential care program provides room, board, and limited personal supervision (at the veteran's expense). VA nurses and social workers make regular home visits and veterans continue to receive their health care through the VA.



For more information on any of these programs, contact:

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(607) 664-4508

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Western New York

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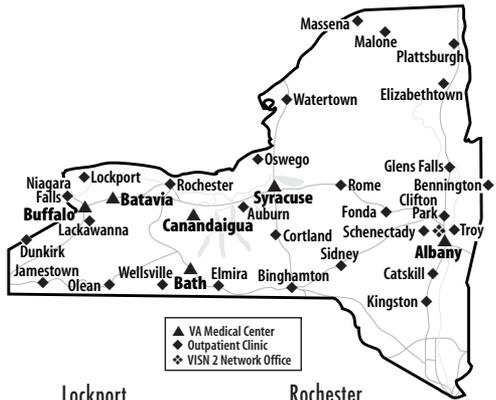
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