



Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
VA MIDWEST HEALTH CARE NETWORK
Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 23
Network Update
March 2013
www.visn23.va.gov



Patient Safety Awareness

Week, March 3-9, 2013

7 Days of recognition - 365 days committed to safe care

Patient Safety Awareness Week is an annual education and awareness campaign for health care safety.

Prior to 1999, virtually all healthcare organizations engaged in investigations of events that caused harm to patients.

The focus was on individuals, rather than on system level vulnerabilities and events that had combined in an unfortunate sequence to cause an incident to occur.

VA's patient safety goal is simple: Reduce and Prevent inadvertent harm to patients as a result of their care. Reducing or eliminating harm to patients is the real key to patient safety.

Efforts that focus exclusively on eliminating errors will fail. Human error can never be totally eliminated. VA's focus is to design systems that are "fault tolerant," so that when an individual error occurs, it does not result in harm to a patient.

To learn how VA is creating a safer system and delivering safer care, talk with a VA patient safety specialist or go to www.patientsafety.gov

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

★ *You served, you deserve the best care anywhere.* ★

March is Women Veterans History Month.

Did you know that women are the fastest growing group within the Veteran population?

In the past decade, more than 181,000 women Veterans have served in Iraq and Afghanistan war zones, often attached to combat units in a wide array of positions, including medics, transportation officers, and military police. They have demonstrated extraordinary skills and bravery in defending our country.

Today, VA is working tirelessly to ensure that women receive the benefits and high quality health care they have earned through their service. Women serve in every branch of the military, representing 15 percent of today's active duty military and nearly 18 percent of National Guard and Reserve forces. By 2020, VA estimates women Veterans will constitute more than 12 percent of the Veteran population. Learn more about the [changing face of women Veterans](#) and [what VA is doing](#) to meet their health care needs at www.womensheath.va.gov.

At each VA Medical Center nationwide, a Women Veterans Program Manager is designated to assist women Veterans. She can help coordinate all the services you may need, from primary care to medical services to Mental Health and Sexual Abuse Counseling. Women Veterans who are interested in receiving care at VA should [contact their nearest VA Medical Center](#) and ask for the Women Veterans Program Manager.

Be Involved in your Health Care



The online version of the [Veterans Health at Home Lifetime Guide](#) provides an easy-to-read, step-by-step guide to maintaining and enhancing your health.

This Self Care, online reference provides up-to-date information on over 300 Self Care topics. It instantly turns your computer into a health information center. Learn when and how to treat yourself at home and when it is time to seek medical attention. For a copy of this free health care guide contact a member of your primary care team. While it is no substitute for needed medical advice, it is a great reference when faced with problems or decisions in managing your

health and helping you and those who care about you. Start taking charge of your HEALTH today. To view online go to <http://www.healthylife.com/online/lifetime/va/>

Maplewood CBOC Relocates March 4

The VA's Maplewood Community Based Outpatient Clinic is moving to a new location beginning March 4. The new clinic is located at 1725 Legacy Parkway, Suite 100, Maplewood, MN 55109, located at the corner of Kennard St. & Legacy. A dedication event and open house will be held Friday, March 15, 1-4 p.m. For more information contact Ralph Heussner, Public Affairs Officer, Minneapolis VA Health Care System at 612 467-3012 (office) or 651 271-7359 (cell)

Veterans and Families Invited to Telehealth Fairs



To increase Veteran and family awareness of the VA's increasing use of telehealth services, Telehealth Fairs are planned at all St. Cloud VA Health Care System locations in March. During the events, Veterans can see telehealth tools in action at the Community Based Outpatient Clinic locations in Alexandria, Brainerd, and Montevideo. Veterans will also be able to meet clinic staff and tour the facility, participate in health and hearing screenings, and apply for enrollment in VA health care. The events are free and open to all Veterans and their families. The following is a schedule of events:

- March 7, 6 to 7 p.m. at the Max J. Beilke VA Clinic, 515 22nd Ave. E., in Alexandria
- March 12, 6 to 7 p.m., at the Brainerd VA Clinic, 722 NW 7th St., in Brainerd
- March 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Canteen at the St. Cloud VA Medical Center, 4801 Veterans Dr.
- March 21, 6 to 7 p.m., at the Montevideo VA Clinic, 1025 N. 13th St. in Montevideo.

Care Anywhere – Reaching out to Homeless Veterans

Care Anywhere is a program created by the Iowa City VA Health Care System in 2011 to provide homeless Veterans in rural areas with the same health care they would receive at a VA medical center. The **Care Anywhere** program is designed to help homeless Veterans overcome barriers to accessing quality health care VA staff use iPads, jetpacks, and Skype, a user friendly telecommunication program, to connect Veterans with providers. Currently, **Care Anywhere** is able to reach all of the Iowa City service areas, which covers 33 eastern Iowa counties, 16 western Illinois counties and one northern Missouri county. Eliminating Veterans Homelessness is a priority for VA and the Iowa City program is one that moves us towards achieving that goal. For more information contact the Iowa City VA HCS Homeless Coordinator.



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Calendar of Events – March 2013

- March 5 - [Red Cross Blood Donation](#) 11:30 AM - 5:25 PM (CST) Minneapolis VAMC, Flag Atrium
- March 5 - [Law Clinic](#) – General, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CST), St. Cloud VAMC, Bldg. T-100
- March 6 - [Healthy Living Classes - Jamestown VA Clinic](#) 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM (CST)
- March 6 - [VA Pantry](#) - 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CST), Omaha VAMC, Building D, 4101 Woolworth Ave
- March 7 - [Telehealth Fair and Open House](#) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CST), Max J. Beilke CBOC, 515 22d Ave. E, Alexandria, MN
- March 8 - [Red Cross Blood Donation](#) 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CST) Minneapolis VAMC, Flag Atrium
- March 11 - [Healthy Living Classes - Jamestown VA Clinic](#) - 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM (CST)
- March 12 - [Red Cross Blood Donation](#) 11:30 AM - 5:25 PM (CST). Minneapolis VAMC, Flag Atrium
- March 12 - [Telehealth Fair and Open House](#) - 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CST), Brainerd CBOC, 722 NW 7th Street, Brainerd, MN
- March 15 - [Red Cross Blood Donation](#) 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CST) Minneapolis VAMC, Flag Atrium
- March 15 - [Southwestern Minnesota Veterans' Law Clinic](#) 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CST), Montevideo CBOC
- March 18 - [Healthy Living Classes - Jamestown VA Clinic](#) - 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM (CST)
- March 18 - [Veteran's Informational Public Forum](#) 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CST) United Veteran's Club, 1914 West Capital Ave, Grand Island, NE
- March 19 - [Red Cross Blood Donation](#) 11:30 AM - 5:25 PM (CST) Minneapolis VAMC, Flag Atrium
- March 19 - [Law Clinic](#) - 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CST), St. Cloud VAMC, Building T-100
- March 20 - [Telehealth Demonstration](#) 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CST), Canteen, St. Cloud VAMC
- March 20 - [Veterans Workshop on VA Benefits \(health, pension, VA loans, GI Bill\)](#) 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CST) Anoka-Ramsey Community College - Coon Rapids Campus <http://www.minneapolis.va.gov/services/vital.asp>
- March 20 - [VA Pantry](#) - 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CST), Omaha VAMC, Bldg. D, 4101 Woolworth Ave
- March 22 - [Red Cross Blood Donation](#) - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CST) Minneapolis VAMC, Flag Atrium
- March 25 - [Healthy Living Classes - Jamestown VA Clinic](#) 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM (CST)
- March 26 - [Red Cross Blood Donation](#) - 11:30 AM - 5:25 PM (CST) Minneapolis VAMC, Flag Atrium
- March 29 - [Red Cross Blood Donation](#) - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CST) Minneapolis VAMC, Flag Atrium
- April 1 - [Healthy Living Classes - Jamestown VA Clinic](#) 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM (CST),
- April 2 - [Law Clinic](#) 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CST), St. Cloud VAMC, Building T-100
- April 8 - [Healthy Living Classes - Jamestown VA Clinic](#) - 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM (CST)

For More information, call the Network Office at (651) 405-5600 or
Log on at www.visn23.va.gov or email sharyl.schaepe@va.gov