



VETERAN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Aurora Senior Health Access

Creating & Sustaining VA-Community Partnerships to Promote
Veteran access to care and support in the VA and the community

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VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System
Geriatrics and Extended Care
Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Care
GRECC Connect

University of Colorado School of Medicine,
Division of Geriatric Medicine

Meeting Needs Together



Veterans' Unique Needs:

- Medical
- Psychological
- Social



Develop Tailored:

- Clinical services
- Patient, caregiver outreach, support
- Provider training
- Research

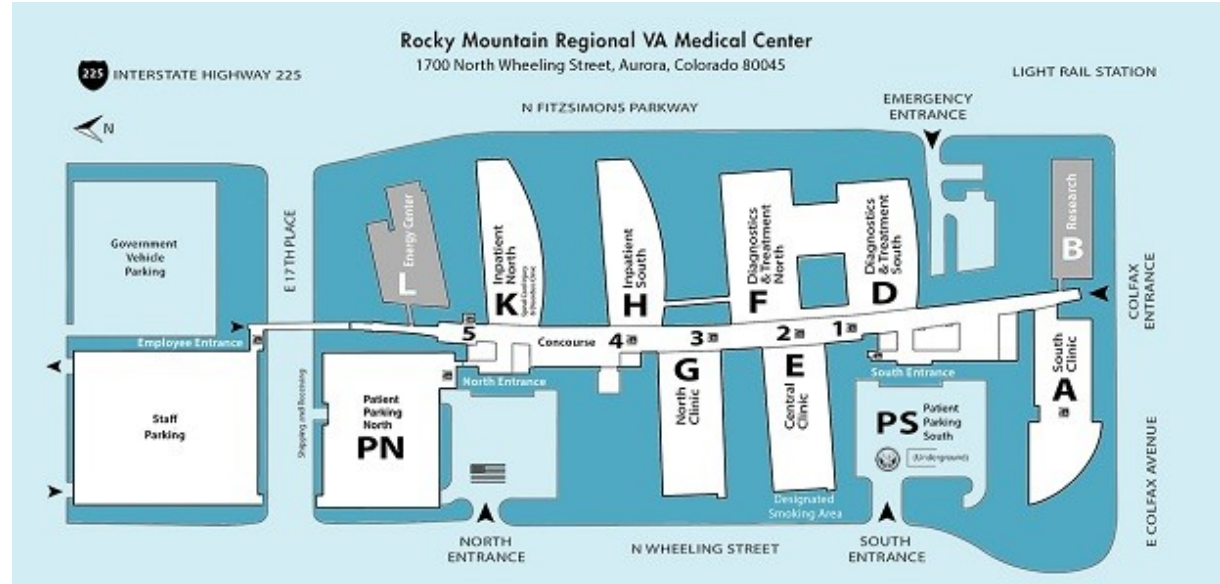


How do we best serve Veterans?

**through
Partnership and
Stakeholder
Engagement**

Today's Goals

- Overview of navigating the VA healthcare system
- Tele-health for individuals with dementia
- Caregiver support & counseling
- Connecting to VA-based resources





Caring for Older Veterans

Supporting Veterans to Choose Home

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VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration

Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers



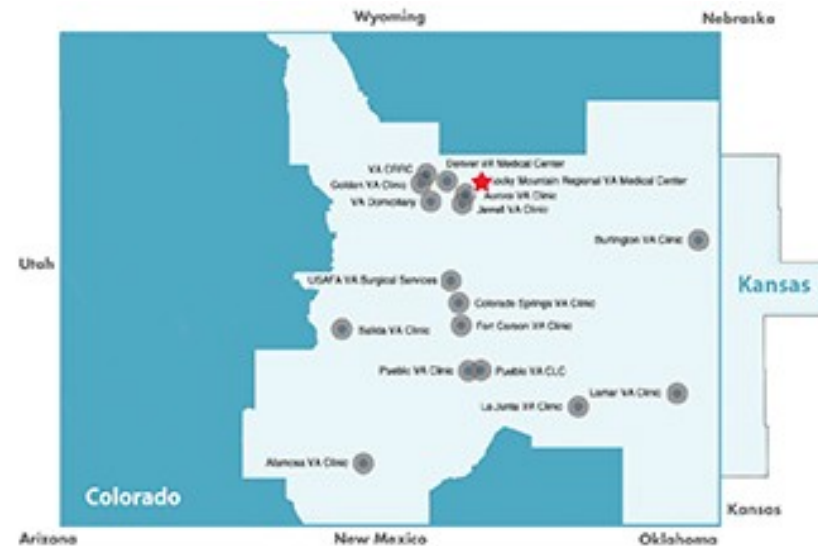
Division of Geriatric Medicine

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS**

Who do we serve?

- Colorado has 403,327 Veterans
- Last year, the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System supported 1,033,000 outpatient health care visits.
- Community Based Outreach Clinics (outside of the Denver Metro area)
 - Colorado Springs
 - Pueblo
 - Alamosa
 - Burlington
 - La Junta
 - Lamar
 - Salida



VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System

Geriatrics and Extended Care

Caring for Older Veterans in Eastern Colorado:
Alamosa, Aurora, Burlington, Colorado Springs,
Denver, Golden, La Junta, Lamar, Pueblo

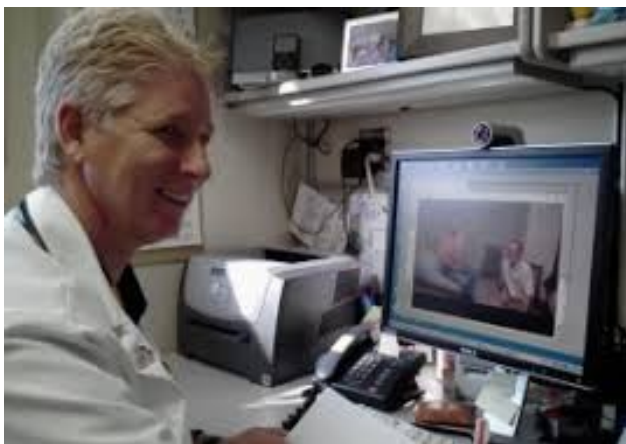
Geriatrics Clinic
&
Home-based Primary Care

Dementia Care &
Geropsychology

Tele-health Geriatric Visits
Tele-health Palliative Care

Geriatric Tele-health Program

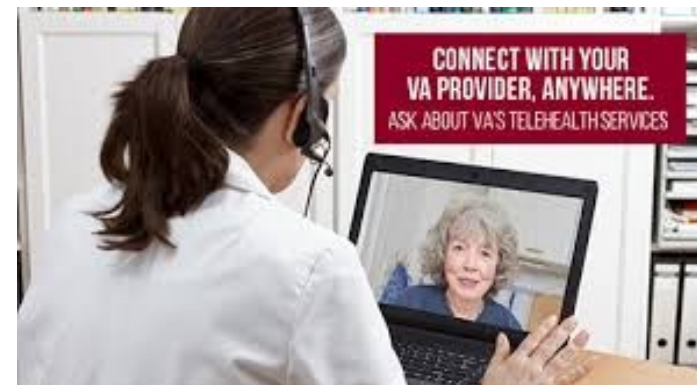
Rocky Mountain Region
VA Medical Center



VA Community
Based Outreach
Clinic



Veteran's Home
via Tablet



Geriatric Tele-health Program

- Geriatric assessment for rural Colorado Veterans
- Referral from Veteran's VA Primary Care Practitioner
- Clinical visit with geriatrician and social worker
- Pharmacist review of medications
- Communication with Primary Care
- Coordination with geropsychology visits



Photo: <https://www.visn4.va.gov/VISN4/features/telehealth-update.asp>

Dementia Care via Tele-Health

Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment

- Memory challenges
- Function at home in daily life
- Medications
- Medical Conditions
- Discuss Veteran's values and needs
- Identify caregiver or other supports

Typical Visit

- 60 minutes
- Important to have hearing aids or pocket talker
- May include brief memory screen with the Montreal Cognitive Assessment

VA Social Workers



Stephanie Hartz, LCSW, BCD
Geriatric & Palliative Care Telehealth
Home Based Primary Care Social Worker
Rocky Mountain Regional VAMC

What does a Social Worker do?

- Educate on VA resources & criteria for enrollment
- Connect to community resources
 - Medicaid, Area Agency on Aging
- Complete psych-social assessments
- VA benefits education
 - Assist w/ application
 - Refer to a Veterans Service Officer (VSO)
- Complete advance directives
- Every doctor/nurse practitioner at VA has an assigned social worker!!

VA Resources

- Adult Day Health Care (ADHC)
- Home Health Care
 - CNA, homemaker, respite care by CNA
 - Skilled RN/PT/OT/SLP
- Veteran Directed Care
- Program for All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly (PACE) partnership

VA Resources

- Palliative or Hospice Care in home
- Home Based Primary Care
- Medical Foster Home program
- Contract Nursing Home
 - Long-term care, skilled rehab, end-of-life care, respite
- <https://www.va.gov/GERIATRICS/index.asp>

VA Caregiver Support Program

CAREGIVER SUPPORT LINE



1-855-260-3274

- Assistance available from VA
- Help access services and benefits
- Connect w/ local family Caregiver Support Coordinator at VA
- Just listen, if that's what you need right now

VA Financial Benefits

- Service connected disability
- VA pension
- Aid & Attendance
- Catastrophically Disabled
- Burial benefits

Join Veteran Community Partnership



Convening Partners

- Regular networking
- VA healthcare team members
- Community organizations

Access to Care Rounds

- VA and community discussion of complex situations
- Every other month

Email

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VETERAN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Veteran Community Partnership



- Veterans' situations we have convened partners around:
 - Chronic pain (Chronic Pain Clinic)
 - Homelessness (RMHS, HUD-VASH)
 - Suicide (VA Suicide Prevention; Colorado Office of Suicide Prevention)
 - Safety concerns at home (MHCD; VA Dementia Care Program)
 - Transportation for older adults (DRCOG)
 - Palliative care, concerns for capacity, guns

Key Question – How can we, the VA and community organizations, partner to help Veterans remain independent at home?



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THANK YOU!

Any Questions?

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