

McGuire Monthly



McGuire VA Medical Center

Special points of interest:

- > Breast Cancer Walk's 21st Year
- > Telemedicine Reaches Rural Veterans
- > Almost 1500 enrolled in MVP
- > Flu Season is Here, Don't forget your flu shot!

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month



to show your support for this important cause.

T-shirt sales will be available in the mall area starting October 10th. All proceeds will benefit the Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation.

diagnosis, treatment and recovery.

Thursday October 10th from 4:30pm - 7pm, all Women Veterans are invited to attend the Ladies Evening Out with music, special events and displays focused on breast cancer, women's fitness and health care.

Friday, October 19th, please join us at 11:30am at the atrium for our **21st annual 1.3 mile Walk** to raise awareness for breast cancer.

With your support, we can make a difference in the lives of individuals affected by breast cancer.

Join in the many activities planned during the month of October to raise awareness about breast cancer and the importance of early detection.

Tuesdays are wear **PINK DAYS!** Don't forget to wear pink

October 9th at 12noon in Room 2K-113 is the Breast Cancer Survivors Panel with women discussing their journey through breast cancer

Congratulations McGuire team! Million Veteran Program reaches towards 1500 enrollees

For more information :

Please call 866-441-6075. or www.research.va.gov/mvp

Million Veteran Program: A Partnership with Veterans

DISCOVERY — INNOVATION — ADVANCEMENT

MVP Facts

Participation involves filling out health surveys, providing a blood sample for genetic analysis, permitting authorized MVP study personnel to access information in the medical record on an ongoing basis and allowing future contact. MVP has extensive safeguards in place to ensure that information security and patient confidentiality are top priorities.

Research & Development

Richmond VAMC- Reaching Veterans through Telehealth Services



There is a virtual bridge between McGuire VA Medical Center's geographically remote patients and the medical services they need.

A new technology that allows a liver transplant patient in San Juan to receive treatment from specialists here in Richmond – without leaving Puerto Rico – telehealth advances the organization's mission to provide all Veterans with access to quality health services, even those in remote locations.

"One of the things that really drives this is the belief that there is one VA," explains Phillip Tarkington, MD, Chief of Health Informatics and Telehealth for the McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The VA, he notes, has a mandate to make its resources and specialists equally available to all Veterans, despite physical distance and mobility challenges.

McGuire is a lead facility that serves smaller Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) in Charlottesville, Emporia, and Fredericksburg. Through telehealth, the wide array of services available at McGuire – including its Parkinsons Disease Movement Disorder clinic and Spinal Cord Injury programs -- are reaching Veterans across the country. Harnessing the vast potential of this innovative approach to health care, McGuire VA Medical Center employs telehealth in several ways.

In its Store and Forward modality, images captured at CBOCs or other medical centers can be forwarded for review by providers at a later date. Store and Forward is employed for teleretinal imaging that ophthalmologists and optometrists can examine for indications of diabetic retinopathy. Similarly, images of skin lesions can be analyzed by dermatologists to detect the presence of possible cancers.

Chronic diseases may be managed effectively by means of the Home Telehealth program, which enables case managers – who are registered nurses – to remotely monitor indicators such as blood pressure, pulse, weight, blood sugar, and pulse oximetry on a consistent basis, without having to see the patient in person.

The close observation that Home Telehealth affords, says Dr. Tarkington, facilitates early intervention should the need arise.

According to Tamara Broadnax, RN, MSN, Facility Telehealth Coordinator for McGuire, Home Telehealth – "encourages increased compliance among patients and affords them more immediate access to providers who can address their questions and problems – which yields improved results, including reduced hospital visits. And when patients do end up in the hospital, we have found a reduction in the readmission rate, length of stay and bed days of care when compared to patients whose conditions have not been followed as closely."

A third telehealth application is Clinical Video Telehealth, which Dr. Tarkington describes as "a Skype-like process" that brings the patient and provider together for an interactive encounter. Patients are able to visit their closest medical facility anywhere in the country and have clinic visits with providers in Richmond. Among the most effective functions of this telehealth program are pre-operative and post-operative evaluations, mental health visits, and shared medical appointments or group visits, says Dr. Tarkington, who points out that McGuire has introduced a pilot program that would provide some patients with spinal cord injuries or mental health conditions to engage in Clinical Video Telehealth at home.

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Construction is underway

Our medical center is relatively new with respect to many VA hospitals; however, we do projects to continually improve and upgrade our facility. For example, we are currently replacing several air handling systems and roof replacements along with an interior improvement projects.

Polytrauma Neuroscience Center: We recently moved patients

into new space ! The original 2B is being renovated in phases for new therapy and family space. The new rooftop addition with over 20,000 square feet will serve as inpatient unit and include patient rooms, support space, research, and family enrichment.

Mental Health Recovery Center – The design is complete to construct the 19,322

square feet of rooftop space for the outpatient mental health program. The construction project has been awarded in the amount of \$8,203,567.

Dialysis Expansion – The design is complete to construct 17,937 square feet of new dialysis treatment space. The project will increase the current 12 dialysis stations to 30 stations with the goal of serving more of our patients on site, verses in the community. Construction is planned to start in early 2014.

Renovate Operating Room Suite - The design is almost complete and this project will provide 3 additional OR suites. The construction will begin in 2014.



Telemedicine Services continued

If the patient has a webcam,” Broadnax explains, “we’re able to connect through it, which works really well for our patients with mobility issues or who are homebound.

Through SCAN-ECHO (Special Care Access Network Extension for Community Health Outcomes), providers may tap into the expertise of colleagues and specialists throughout the VA

network.

“That is a provider to provider mentoring program that we use to broadcast specialty care out to areas that don’t have it,” Dr. says Tarkington. “We use our SCAN-ECHO program to help providers in our VA network get comfortable with the technology, get to know the specialists they’re working with, and get some continuing medical education

in the process of getting the care they need for their patients.”

To illustrate SCAN-ECHO in action, he explains that hepatologists at McGuire – one of few liver transplant centers in the nation – partner with hepatologists at the VAMC in Durham to provide weekly conference calls. Providers who don’t have on-site liver specialists can dial in for advice and participate in educational discussions about the subject at hand. Such information-sharing sessions may focus on any number of areas, such as diabetes.

Dr. Tarkington, who imagines that telehealth technology will play an increasingly important role in health care, explains that the VA’s commitment to eradicating geographic and economic disparities when it comes to treating Veterans has placed the organization at the forefront of this promising trend.

“VA is on the cutting edge of the use of telehealth technology.”

“I would say the VA is on the cutting edge of the use of telehealth technology.”

Do you have an Idea?

Goal Sharing is a team endeavor that rewards and recognizes performance improvement. Project areas must reflect Richmond’s Strategic Priorities: Satisfaction, Cost, Quality, and Access.

Applications are being accepted from October 1 to October 31.



See Goal Sharing on the Desktop Apple for more information. Get Started Now!!!!

We are on the Web!



www.richmond.va.gov

www.facebook.com/Richmondvamc

www.twitter.com/Richmondvamc

McGuire VA Medical Center

EXCELLENT SERVICE
Earned by Veterans. Delivered Here.

VA Medical Center - Richmond

McGuire VA Medical Center (Richmond VAMC) consists of one medical center located in Richmond, Virginia and three Community Based Outpatient Clinics located in Fredericksburg, Charlottesville, and Emporia, Virginia. The Richmond, Virginia community has an estimated population of 200,000 Veterans in 52 cities and counties covering 22,515 square miles of central and southern Virginia and areas of northern North Carolina. The majority of the medical center's patients live in the Richmond-Petersburg-Hopewell area or within a 100-mile radius.

The Richmond VAMC is a 427 operating bed medical center that offers primary, secondary, and tertiary diagnostic and therapeutic health services in medicine, surgery, neurology, rehabilitation medicine, intermediate care, acute and sustaining spinal cord injury, skilled nursing home care, and palliative care. The medical center serves as one of VHA's five Polytrauma Rehabilitation Centers. Recently, the medical center received the designation as an Epilepsy Center of Excellence.

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Protect yourself and others- with a flu shot

You are important to our medical center family, your family and the Veterans we are privileged to serve. As caregivers, we frequently take care of the needs of others, but fail to recognize our own personal needs. We have a variety of roles in our lives; serving as parents, siblings, health care workers, community leaders and numerous other roles.

That is why we encourage you to have the flu immunization. It is quick, readily available here at the facility and can keep you and those you love healthier this flu season.

We know that you will want to take this important step in your health care planning. By keeping you healthy, the risk of the virus is reduced for our patients, other team members and those you care about in the community.

You matter to so many people, please take a moment and protect yourself and others.

