

VETERANS UPDATE

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NEW VA ACCESS & QUALITY WEBSITE



VA launched a new Access and Quality Tool that provides Veterans with an easy-to-use, easy-to-understand way of accessing patient wait time and quality of care data.

“Veterans must have access to information that is clear and understandable to make informed decisions about their health care,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. David J. Shulkin.

The tool allows Veterans to

access the average times patients are waiting to be seen in their local area; how Veterans describe their experiences scheduling primary- and specialty-care appointments at specific VA facilities; timeliness of appointments for care needed right away; and the quality of health care delivered at VA medical centers compared with local private-sector hospitals. The Access and Quality Tool can be found at www.accesstocare.va.gov.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 22, 9 - 10:30 a.m.,
Middletown VA Clinic Veteran
Town Hall, Middletown, R.I.
VFW, 52 Underwood Ln.**

**April 29, 2 - 3:30 p.m., New
Bedford VA Clinic Veteran
Town Hall, New Bedford Vet
Center, 73 Huttleton Ave., Unit
2, Fairhaven.**

**May 6, 2 - 3:30 p.m., Hyannis
VA Clinic Veteran Town Hall,
Cape Cod Vet Center, 474 West
Main Street, Hyannis.**

**May 17, 5:30 - 7 p.m., VBA and
VAMC Joint Veteran Town
Hall, 5th floor auditorium.**

**July 17- 21, Summer Sports
Clinic for Disabled Veterans,
Contact your provider to apply.**

PROVIDENCE VAMC TOBACCO CESSATION PROGRAM

Want to quit smoking? The PVAMC Tobacco Cessation Program can help! It provides:

- Four sessions of tobacco cessation counseling
- Tobacco cessation medication or nicotine replacement
- Telehealth telephone support
- Individual and group treatment options

For more information, ask your primary care provider, call 401-273-7100 ext. 4210 or 3694, or drop-in Mondays, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., 3rd Floor, Room 327E; or Wednesdays, 9 - 10 a.m., Primary Care Waiting Area 2, Room 1014.



SPRING HEALTH RESOURCE FAIR



Post-baccalaureate nurse residents, other Rhode Island College students and VA staff serve lunch Thursday, April 13, 2017, during the "Spring Into Health" resource fair for homeless and at-risk Veterans hosted by the Providence VA Medical Center's Homeless Patient-Aligned Care Team in partnership with Operation Stand Down Rhode Island. (Providence VA Medical Center photo by Kimberly DiDonato)

The Providence VA Medical Center's Homeless Clinic hosted the "Spring Into Health" resource fair in partnership with Operation Stand Down Rhode Island April 13.

The event featured information stations on employment and training, banking and personal finance, health and nutrition, suicide prevention, housing, education, substance abuse treatment and prevention, gardening tips, and more. Veteran participants were free to visit resource tables regarding information of interest to them, but were asked to visit at least 10 stations to be eligible for a door prize.

Veteran participants were also treated to a free lunch donated by Dave's Marketplace.

Participation in the event increased by 63 percent versus last year, with 55 Veterans attending. The most popular stations were banking and personal finance, with 100 percent of participants visiting the resource table; substance abuse

treatment and prevention with 98 percent; the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP or food stamps, with 90 percent; the R.I. Department of Labor and Training, with 85 percent; and Clear Caption Phone, with 80 percent.

"Events like this are an important way to reach homeless and at-risk Veterans and connect them with the services they've earned through their service," said Dr. Susan MacKenzie, director of the Providence VA Medical Center. "I would like to thank Operation Stand Down Rhode-Island for their partnership in putting on this event and in taking care of Veterans in need across Rhode Island."

The Providence VAMC Homeless Patient-Aligned Care Team is a model for the delivery of primary care and integrated services for homeless Veterans nationwide. The program is located in Trailer 37 on the PVAMC main campus in Providence, and has expanded to offer walk-in services five days-a-week with "one-stop shopping" for a variety of VA programs.



Providence VA Medical Center

830 Chalkstone Ave
Providence, RI 02908
401-273-7100

Veteran's Crisis Line:
800-273-8255 press 1

Patient Call Center (PCC):
401-457-3336

Pharmacy Call Center:
866-400-1241

**Community Care /
Veteran's Choice Office**
401-273-7100 ext. 3015

Account Balances:
401-457-3344

Providence VBA Regional Office
401-273-7100 ext. 3107

Website:
www.providence.va.gov

Facebook:
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VAProvidence](https://facebook.com/VAProvidence)

Twitter:
twitter.com/VAProvidence