



Say You Care:

Start the Conversation

End of Life Care for Veterans in Illinois

The 2000 census indicates that there are over one million veterans in Illinois (eleven percent of the total population over 18). Anthony J. Principi, Secretary of Veteran Affairs, states that the VA can't provide all the services for Veterans and therefore the VA will be working together with community hospices.

All veterans enrolled in the VA system can access hospice and palliative care through their VA facility or community hospice. VA, Medicare, Medicaid, and most insurance benefits include hospice services. Veterans who want hospice care can ask their physician or call their VA or local hospice. Anthony Principi, former Secretary of Veterans Affairs, notes:

“There comes a time when all the modern medicine in the world can't cure the illness. Treating the pain, communicating compassion and providing support and counseling are paramount.”

As a veteran, you are entitled to quality end-of-life care. The Illinois Hospice-Veterans Partnership works to assure that all Illinois veterans have access to quality end-of-life care

As a veteran you have the right to choose which insurance should be the primary payer for your hospice care. If you are Medicare or Medicaid eligible you can access palliative and hospice care through local community providers or may choose to use your VA benefits. As a veteran you are entitled to hospice care under your VA or Medicare benefit. You do not have to cancel VA clinic appointments to receive hospice care. You may have hospice care and continue to see your primary care physician.

You can find hospice and palliative care providers on the Illinois Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's website, www.il-hpco.org. The website also houses information on how to choose a hospice program.

Prepare for End of Life Care Decisions:

- Complete an advance care directive
- Talk with your loved ones and your physicians about your wishes
- Enroll in the VA health system
- Choose, if you wish, to have hospice services

HOW TO ENROLL IN THE VA SYSTEM:

1. Present Military Discharge Papers (DD214)
2. Complete an application with personal information (EZ 1010)
3. Complete paperwork on your income and assets
4. Submit completed application forms to the admissions department of your local VA facility

ILLINOIS RESOURCE INFORMATION

Community Hospice Providers 888-844-7706
www.il-hpco.org (Hospice Locator)

VA Benefits 1-800-827-1000 (Chicago Regional Office)

VA Benefits Application vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp

VA Medical Centers

Chicago:	Jesse Brown VA Medical Center	(312) 569-8387
Danville:	VA Illiana Health Care System	(217) 554-3000
Hines:	Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital	(708) 202-8387
Marion:	Marion VA Medical Center	(618) 997-5311
North Chicago:	North Chicago VA Medical Center	(847) 688-1900

VA Outpatient Clinics

Aurora:	Aurora Clinic	(630) 859-2504
Chicago:	Beverly (Chicago) Clinic	(773) 239-7134
Chicago:	Lakeside Clinic	(312) 569-8387
Chicago Heights:	Chicago Heights Clinic	(708) 756-5454
Crown Point, IN:	Adam Benjamin, Jr. Clinic	(219) 662-5000
Elgin:	Elgin Clinic	(847) 742-5920
Evanston:	Evanston Clinic	(847) 869-6315
Joliet:	Joliet Clinic	(815) 744-0492
LaSalle:	LaSalle Clinic	(815) 223-0196
Manteno:	Manteno Clinic	(815) 468-1027
McHenry:	McHenry Clinic	(815) 759-2306
Oak Lawn:	Oak Lawn Clinic	(708) 499-3675
Oak Park:	Oak Park Clinic	(708) 386-3008
Rockford:	Rockford Clinic	(815) 227-0081

VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics

Belleville:	Belleville Clinic	(618) 398-2100
Decatur:	Decatur VA Outpatient Clinic	(217) 875-2670
Effingham:	Effingham Clinic	(217) 347-7600
Effingham:	Effingham VA Outpatient Clinic	(217) 347-7600
Galesburg:	Galesburg VA Clinic	(309) 343-0311
Gurnee:	Gurnee Clinic	(847) 662-0978
Mt. Vernon:	Mt. Vernon Clinic	(618) 246-2910
Peoria:	Peoria VA Outpatient Clinic	(309) 497-0790
Quincy:	Quincy VA Clinic	(217) 224-3366
Springfield:	Springfield VA Outpatient Clinic	(217) 522-9730