



VA 101: VA Health Care Basics

What Veterans and eligible dependents need to know to get started

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VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
New Jersey Health Care System

COVID-19 Disclaimer

Due to the current global COVID-19 pandemic some services may temporarily be suspended, limited or otherwise inaccessible in-person. VANJHCS is committed to providing alternative ways to get your care when options are available to do so. Please use this time to make sure your My HealthVet account is set up and that you have access to the Premium features such as Secure Messaging and Pharmacy refill online.

My Health, My Care:

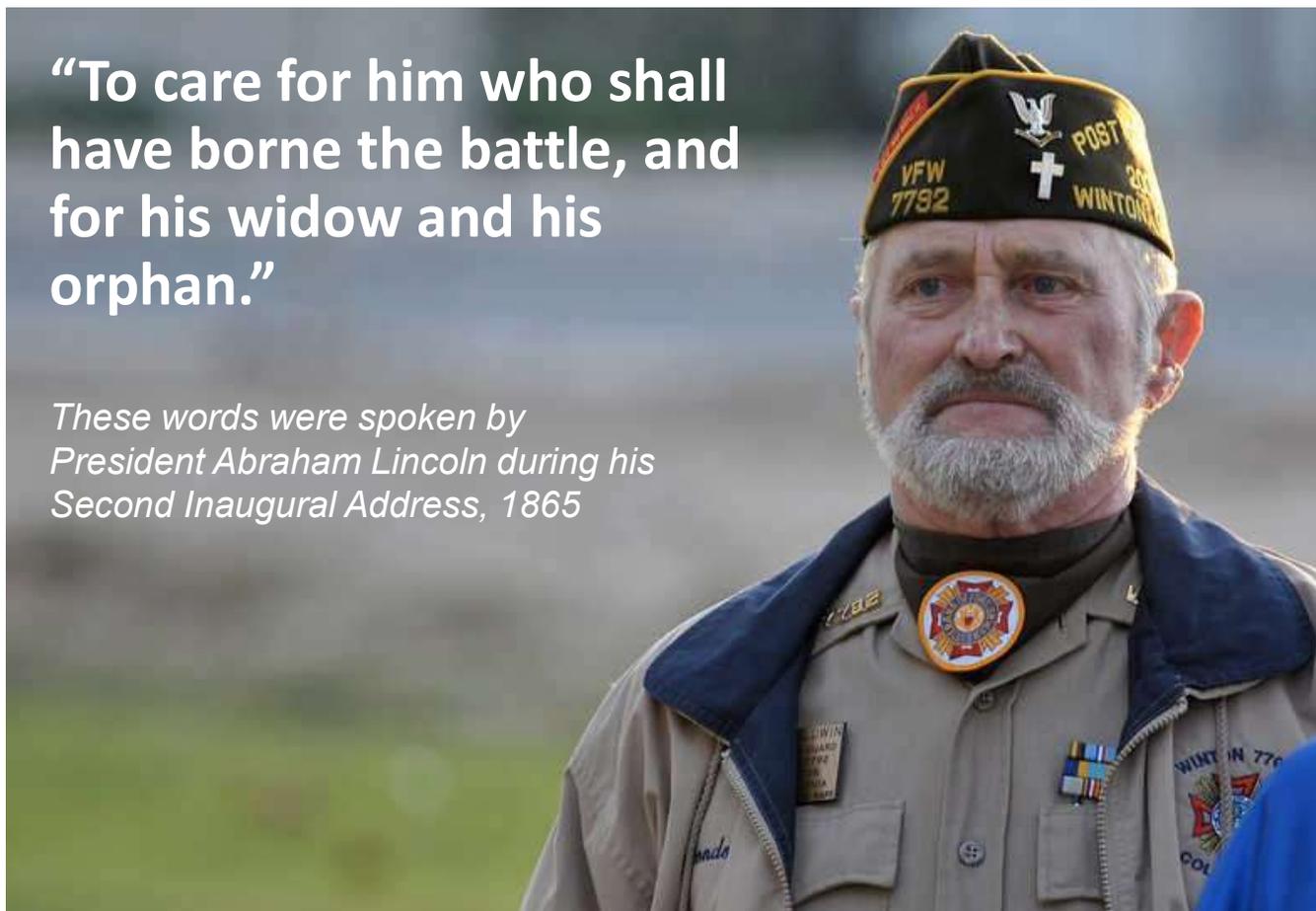


24/7 *online* Access to VA

VA Mission Statement

“To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan.”

These words were spoken by President Abraham Lincoln during his Second Inaugural Address, 1865



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: Organizational information

- Secretary of Veterans Affairs: Hon. Robert Wilkie
- Federal government's second largest department
- Divided into 3 branches:
 - Veterans Health Care Administration (VHA)
 - Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)
 - National Cemetery Administration (NCA)
- VHA provides quality health care to approximately 10 million unique Veterans through more than 170 hospitals and 1,065 community clinics.



Who we serve



325,981 Veterans living in Northern 14 Counties of New Jersey

**Projected Veteran population
by county on 9/30/2019:
(VETPOP 2016)**

US Department of Veterans Affairs New Jersey Health Care System Footprint

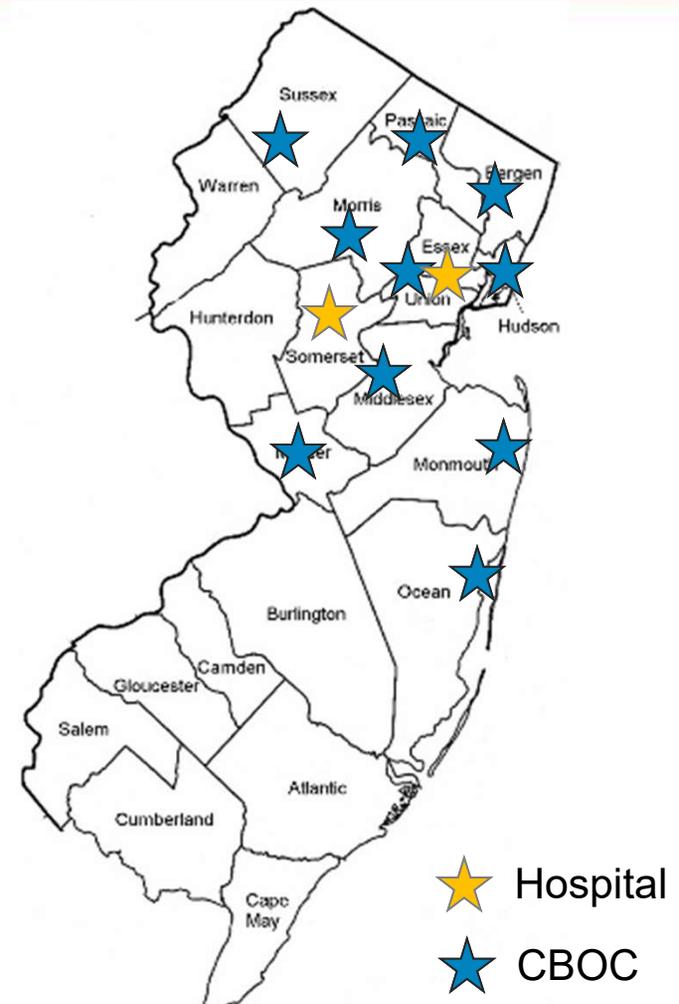
Our Locations:

East Orange, NJ (*Emergency Services*)
Lyons, NJ

*Our Community Based Outpatient Clinics are located in
Brick, Elizabeth, Hackensack, Hamilton, Jersey City,
Morristown, Newton, Paterson, Piscataway, and Tinton Falls*

We serve:

The northern 14 counties in New Jersey



US Department of Veterans Affairs New Jersey Health Care System Footprint

Vet Center Locations:

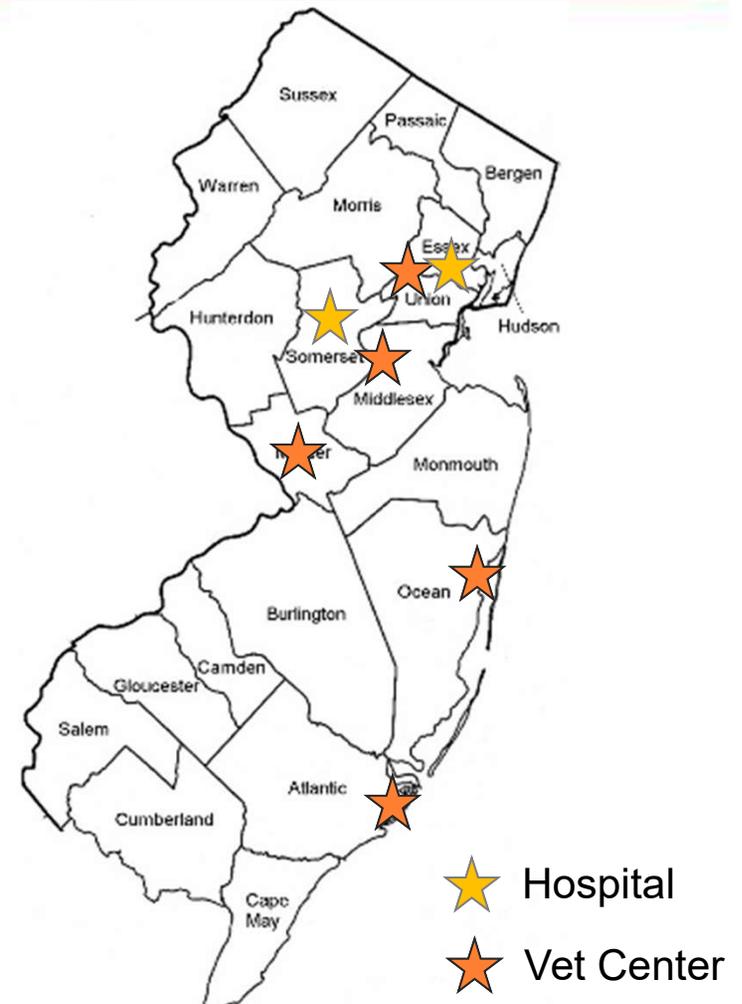
*Ewing, Lakewood, Bloomfield,
Secaucus, and Egg Harbor*

They serve:

Combat Veterans and their families,
MST survivors, and currently serving
personnel

They Do:

Mental health counseling
services and referrals only



VA Health Care Eligibility

Basic Eligibility for Services

1. Active Duty service:

- a. 24 consecutive months (enlisted *after* September 7, 1980)
- b. One day of active duty service required (enlisted *before* September 7, 1980)

2. Reserve or National Guard service:

- a. Eligible if activated for a term of Federal (Title 10) Active Duty and service obligation is fulfilled honorably

3. Character of Discharge:

- b. Must be Honorable or Under Honorable Conditions
- c. May be Other Than Honorable for Emergency Services

4. Income; Not Assets:

- a. Reported income from last year must be below the VA National Annual Income Limit or VA Annual Income Limit for the Geographic Area, whichever is higher.

VA Enhanced Health Care Eligibility

Enhanced Eligibility for Services

- Former Prisoner of War (POW)
- Purple Heart Medal Awardees
- Medal of Honor Awardees
- VA awarded service-connected disability of 10% or more
- VA Pensioners
- Discharged because of a disability, early out, or hardship
- Served in a Theater of Operations for 5 years post discharge
- Served in Vietnam
- Served in the Persian Gulf from August 2, 1990 to November 11, 1998
- Stationed at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987
- Found by VA to be Catastrophically Disabled
- Previous years' household income is below VA's National Income or Geographical-Adjusted Thresholds

VA Health Care Eligibility Basics

- **Income guidelines:** Vary by location and number of dependents
(<http://nationalincomelimits.vaftl.us/>)
- **Co-payments:** **\$15** primary/**\$50** specialist/**\$5, \$8,** or **\$11** prescriptions
- **No premiums, ever**
- **No deductibles, ever**
- **Service-connected disability:** Free healthcare for injury/illness
- **Veterans of the current conflicts:** VA Health Care coverage for *5 years* after discharge from active duty for anything related to their service

Veterans Health Administration: Specialized Medical Services (not conclusive)

- Primary Care
- Cardiology
- Pharmacy
- Endocrinology/Diabetes Care
- Rehabilitation Medicine
- General Surgery
- Orthopedics
- Oncology
- Neurology
- Podiatry
- Audiology
- Dermatology
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Nutrition
- Dental
- Services for Female Veterans
- *Other services available through Community Care*

Veterans Health Administration: Outpatient Mental Health Programs in New Jersey

- Mental Health Providers
- Intensive PTSD treatment unit
- Substance Abuse Services
- Veterans Justice Outreach
- Homeless Services
- Vet Centers



Veterans Health Administration: Inpatient Mental Health Programs in New Jersey

- **General Psychiatry:** East Orange and Lyons
- **Residential PTSD** (Lyons)
- **Women's Trauma Program**
- **CORE Residential** (Center Of Recovery Empowerment)
 - Patients with a dual or co-occurring mental health diagnoses

VHA Residential Rehabilitation Programs in New Jersey

- **East Orange Campus:** Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (SARRTP)
- **Lyons Campus:** Homeless/Employment Readiness Domiciliary (up to 6 months)

My HealtheVet

- 24/7 access to health care information
- Online prescription refills (mailed to home)
- Direct secure messaging with providers at VA
- 24/7 access to medical records
- Comprehensive health library
- Self-schedule primary care and mental health outpatient appointments
- Account creation and in-person authentication needed for access to all services through MHeV.



VANJHCS Patient Advocates



Amy Merriman

Patient Advocate (Lyons Campus)
908-647-0180 Ext. 4595



Beth Malpica

Inpatient Advocate (E Orange Campus)
973-676-1000 Ext. 2169



Robin Baptiste

Transition and Care Management Patient Advocate
973-676-1000 Ext. 4094



Kecia Anderson-James

Patient Advocate (E Orange Campus)
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Patrina Lauria

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908-647-0180 Ext. 4762

Thank You!

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[VA Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255](tel:1-800-273-8255) (TALK), Press **1**

[VA Homeless Helpline: 1-877-424-3838](tel:1-877-424-3838)

[NJ Veterans Helpline: 1-866-838-7654](tel:1-866-838-7654)

www.newjersey.va.gov (VA NJ Health Care System Website)