

Medical Foster Home Program:

An option for long-term nursing home care



GULF COAST VETERANS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

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VA HEALTH CARE | Defining EXCELLENCE in the 21st Century

Veterans in the **MEDICAL FOSTER HOME** program move into a private home. They get personal care and supervision. The Veteran or the Veteran's family pays the Medical Foster Home caregiver for the care and room and board.

The VA Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC) program provides primary care services in the home. This care includes medical visits. The Medical Foster Home program and the HBPC team monitor the patient and the home.

WHAT DOES THE MEDICAL FOSTER HOME PROGRAM OFFER?

- Choice
- Private/semi-private room
- 24-hour supervision
- Long-term care and support
- Privacy and dignity
- Flexibility of daily routine
- Family setting
- Stable home
- Quality of life
- Relationships
- One-on-one attention



WHAT SERVICES WILL THE HOME-BASED PRIMARY CARE TEAM PROVIDE?

- Primary health care
- Training in the use of special equipment and devices
- Caregiver support
- Other VA or community services as needed
- Training about home safety
- Access to home care services including social work, psychology, dietitian, rehabilitation therapist, pharmacist and recreational therapist

HOW CAN I BECOME A VA MEDICAL FOSTER HOME RESIDENT?

Enroll in the VA Home-Based Primary Care program.

To enroll for HBPC, the Veteran must:

- Require the help of another person
- Be unable to live alone due to physical or mental problems
- Have complex care needs
- Require care that cannot be managed through routine VA clinic visits
- Leave home rarely or for short periods only

- Live within the HBPC coverage area
- Agree to be in the Medical Foster Home program
- Sign a yearly agreement outlining the cost between caregiver, Veteran and/or responsible party

HOW DOES VA ENSURE THAT I RECEIVE THE CARE I NEED?

- Caregivers are screened and matched with Veterans
- Caregivers must have experience in giving personal care
- Caregivers must have a relief person
- Home is inspected before a Veteran moves in and then once a year to ensure the home meets VA standards
- Home must meet all local, state and federal requirements
- Unannounced visits are made by the Medical Foster Home team
- Caregivers receive ongoing education and training

WHO PAYS FOR A MEDICAL FOSTER HOME?

The Veteran pays the caregiver using his or her own funds such as a pension or Social Security. The cost per month depends upon the Veteran's care needs and income.