

VAU.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center Promotes Telehealth Care for Rural Veterans

The Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center in Saginaw and its nine Community Based Outpatient Clinics throughout the mid and northern lower peninsula have been well-advanced in utilizing telehealth to deliver care to Veterans.

Telehealth was first introduced to the VA in 1998. The idea behind this modality of care was to do two things. One was to require less traveling for the Veteran throughout the state for his or her care, the other was to tap into providers and specialists who could provide assessments, care, and treatment plans virtually to the Veteran should a particular clinic not have a health care provider the Veteran needed to see.

Telehealth's mission is to provide the right care in the right place at the right time through the efficient, cost-effective, and appropriate use of health information and telecommunications technologies. Telehealth's vision is to make the home and local community the preferred place of care whenever possible and practical.

Telehealth bridges the mileage gap between the Veteran and his or her VA provider. Home telehealth is monitoring patients in the home through monitoring/messaging devices and /or toll-free phone interaction. Veterans may also receive services in conjunction with a "live" video connection. Contact your Facility Telehealth Coordinator for availability and types of services.

Clinical Video Telehealth (CVT) is real-time video interaction between a patient and a clinician. CVT provides Veterans opportunities to see a variety of clinical specialists within close proximity to their homes. Veterans may be able to receive some services via a home computer (CVT to home). Services vary within VISN facilities.

Store and Forward Telehealth (SFT) is taking an image at one location, uploading, transmitting, and having the image interpreted by a specialty provider at another location. SFT modality allows Veterans to be screened more timely and decreases lengthy wait times for traditional appointments. Services vary within VISN facilities.

Secure Messaging is an electronic bi-directional communication between patients and their health care teams. It allows patients with an upgraded MyHealthVet account the opportunity to send messages to their health care teams regarding non-urgent health-related issues. Visit: <https://www.myhealth.va.gov> to learn more.

In Fiscal Year 2015, which ended September 30, 2015, the Aleda E. Lutz VA and Community Based Outpatient Clinics, provided some form of telehealth care to 3,573 Veterans which attributed to a total of 13,759 telehealth visits.

Veterans should talk with their health care team about the possibility of receiving their care via telehealth should they be faced with long-distance travel for VA care. It might just be an option for them.

The Aleda E. Lutz VAMC in Saginaw, Michigan operates an 81-bed skilled nursing and rehabilitation Community Living Center, with an additional 8-bed acute medicine and telemetry wing. It provides care to over 34,700 Veterans in a 35-county geographic area, from mid-Michigan to the Mackinac Bridge. Veterans also receive care at one of our nine VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics located throughout Michigan. More information about this VA can be found at www.saginaw.va.gov.

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Reduce Miles Traveled with Care Close to Home.



Telehealth

Ask your provider for details today!

Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center in Saginaw and
Community Based Outpatient Clinics from Mid Michigan
to the Mackinac Bridge