Aleda E. Lutz VA Describes Care and Services Through the Geriatrics and Extended Care (GEC) Program

The Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, located at 1500 Weiss Street, Saginaw, MI proudly serves Veterans in our community and provides the following information specific to Veterans regarding admissions for rehabilitation, skilled care, or other needs.

Geriatrics and Extended Care (GEC) is located in the Community Living Center (CLC). For a Veteran to be screened for admission, a GEC Inpatient Consult must be placed by the Veteran’s provider, or a referral may come from an outside hospital. If the consult is for Physical Therapy, the patient will need to come to the VA for a Physical Therapy evaluation prior to screening.

Additionally, an evaluation of the Veteran’s eligibility will be completed to determine if the Veteran will incur a co-payment. The Veteran and/or family will be provided information at the time of pre-screening on those requirements.

When a Veteran requires admission for inpatient care, they may be assigned to one of the following treating specialties:
* **Short Stay Rehabilitation**
  This is for Veterans who require intensive Physical and Occupational Therapy, and possibly Speech Therapy, up to three hours a day. This is likely related to post-joint replacement or debility related to a stroke.

* **Short Stay Skilled Care**
  This is for Veterans requiring wound care and/or Intra Venous (IV) antibiotic therapy. For this specialty, Veterans will need IV infusion or wound care at least two times a day.

* **Short Stay Mental Health Recovery**
  Referrals to this treating specialty would come from our Mental Health and Substance Abuse Team, as they decide if a Veteran would be appropriate for the inpatient program.
*Respite Care
Respite is a caregiver relief program. Each Veteran is allowed 30 days of respite a year. This can be split up or used all at once. To be eligible for respite care, the patient must routinely see a VA Primary Care Provider and have a routine caregiver.

*Short Stay Restorative Care
This specialty is also used for Veterans who need Physical/Occupational Therapy, but will not meet the required time for the full rehabilitation program. This is also used for wound care and IV antibiotics which are not frequent enough to qualify for skilled care.

*Hospice and Palliative Care
Hospice specialty care is for Veterans who have a life-limiting illness and life expectancy of six months or less, with the goal of care being focused on comfort rather than cure. Palliative care includes a balance of curative interventions and comfort care which emphasizes symptom management. There is a dedicated unit and multidisciplinary team who provides care for this specialized group of Veterans. The goal is to achieve the best possible quality of life through relief of suffering, management of symptoms, and restoration of functional capacity to the greatest extent possible. The emphasis is on comprehensive management of the physical, psychological, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of the Veteran and family.

The Aleda E. Lutz VA continues to receive compliments from Veterans and family members about the excellent care and extraordinary compassion from VA employees during their stay. We encourage any Veteran needing any one of these levels of care to contact 989-497-2500, Extension 11152 or Extension 11162 (Palliative Care) to learn more.

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 36,300 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](http://www.saginaw.va.gov).

###