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News Release
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Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center
Undergoes Home Based Primary Care Expansion

The Enterprise Wide Initiative (EWI) Rural Expansion of Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) offered the opportunity to expand the HBPC program to the rural area of Oscoda, MI. The Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center in Saginaw jumped at the opportunity.

By providing quality, interdisciplinary care to Veterans in the home, this project aligns with the ORH Mission for 2015-2019 of improving the health and wellbeing of rural Veterans by increasing their access to care and services. This also supports the VA’s Blueprint for Excellence by helping our homebound Veterans transition from “sick care” to “health care”.

The expansion program will allow us to continue to meet patient care needs and provide additional caregiver support for HBPC patients and their families. HBPC, and its rural expansions, have a proven sustainability track record with VERA and cost reduction, as well as improved quality and satisfaction, which is why HBPC rural expansion was accepted in the EWI for rural programs.

According to an article written by Thomas Edes (2010), innovations in HBPC at the Veterans Affairs (VA) are designed specifically to assist people with chronic and disabling diseases help to retain their independence and remain safely in their home. Many of these patients have trouble remembering their appointments, getting to the clinic, or are unable to drive safely. The average HBPC patient has more than eight medical problems and takes more than twelve medications. Therefore, an interdisciplinary team in the home is effective and comprehensive.

Since the rural funding was approved, the Oscoda Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) has begun to establish the HBPC Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) which includes two full time Registered Nurses, a Provider, a Social Worker, a Psychologist, a Registered Pharmacist, a Registered Dietician, an Advanced Medical Assistant, and a Physical Therapist. VA’s HBPC program was originally established as a way to provide comprehensive, longitudinal primary care by a physician-supervised interdisciplinary team of VA staff in the homes of Veterans with complex, chronic, disabling disease for
whom routine clinic-based care is not effective. Increasing the number of HBPC programs is essential for decreasing emergency room utilization, minimizing hospital admissions, and reducing inpatient stays for our facility.

There are currently over 23 Veterans enrolled in the program. With the expansion of HBPC to the Oscoda area, we plan to build on our past successes, grow our program, and bring primary care services to the rural Veterans needing nontraditional primary care services the most.


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 35,400 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.