

VA



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News Release

Minneapolis VA
Health Care System

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minneapolis VA “Pain Rehab Program” Receives Accreditation

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (Oct. 8, 2014) – The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) International announced that the Minneapolis VA Health Care System’s (VAHCS) Chronic Pain Rehabilitation Program (CPRP) has been accredited for the maximum accreditation period of three years.

It is the only chronic pain program in Minnesota to be CARF accredited.

“This is an important acknowledgment from an independent organization that our Veterans are receiving high quality pain care,” said Michael Armstrong, MD, Chief of the Minneapolis VA’s Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service.

The Chronic Pain Rehabilitation Program at the Minneapolis VAHCS serves as one of the highly specialized pain services available to Veterans through the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 23 Pain System of Care. The VISN 23 Pain System of Care is a “Hub and Spokes” model of pain care implemented by VISN 23 to develop local pain teams throughout the VISN and provide a centralized tertiary center in Minneapolis for highly specialized care. The implementation of this system of care has ensured all VISN 23 Health Care Systems across Minnesota, Iowa, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, and Western Wisconsin have access to services for Veterans with chronic pain.

The program provides an intensive, interdisciplinary four week outpatient treatment program for Veterans with chronic pain. The program focuses on improving the quality of life and functioning of the whole person – not just the site(s) of pain. This is done by addressing all of the factors that are impacted by chronic pain like complex physical functioning, mood, work, leisure/hobby activities, and relationships.

Working with a team of pain specialists (physicians, psychologists, pharmacists, nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists and recreational therapists), participants join others with chronic pain to learn about and practice skills to achieve greater control over their pain and their life when a cure isn't possible.

Throughout the group-based program, various types of treatments and therapies are presented to help each participant improve self-management of their pain symptoms and return to a more active and fulfilling life.

BACKGROUND

- The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) International is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process and continuous improvement services that center on enhancing the lives of the persons served. . For more information about the accreditation process, visit the CARF website at www.carf.org.
- The Minneapolis VA Health Care System is a tertiary care facility consisting of a large medical center in Minneapolis and 13 Community Based Outpatient Clinics in Minnesota (9) and western Wisconsin (4). In 2013, more than 96,000 Veterans received care. Minneapolis

supports an extensive educational and training program and a large research effort. The medical center supports the U.S. Department of Defense through its Polytrauma Care Center and Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center.