Nursing Home versus Hospital Care

You are about to move to a community nursing home. Nursing home care is different from the care you received in the hospital. A nursing home is a home, not a hospital. Some of the differences and similarities are:

- You will need to choose a doctor in the community because VA doctors do not visit nursing homes. Your family and the social worker can help you choose a doctor. Residents of nursing homes usually see their doctors between once a month and once every six months. In most cases, you will still receive follow-up care from specialists at the VA and can still be admitted to the VA Medical Center, if needed.

- Hospitals are staffed with doctors and registered nurses (RNs) twenty-four hours a day. Registered nurses are usually supervisors in nursing homes. Nurses’ aides and licensed practical nurses (LPNs) take care of nursing home residents.

- Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy are available in both hospitals and nursing homes.

- All nursing homes offer dental care at an additional cost.

- Most nursing homes offer spiritual care and religious services.

- Most nursing homes offer the services of barbers and beauticians.

- Nursing homes offer more activities and recreational opportunities than hospitals.

Social workers in nursing homes can help you and your family adjust to life in a nursing home, deal with money problems, and find community resources.

If you have any questions about nursing homes call the Home and Community Care social worker or nurse at (612) 725-1994.