

Services and Benefits:

The VA Boston Healthcare System has a nationally recognized Spinal Cord Injury/Disorder (SCI/D) Program, which operates under CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) accreditation. Comprehensive therapeutic services are provided in a caring environment using the latest technology. We provide a full continuum of care to eligible Veterans and Service Members with SCI/D including acute care, rehabilitative care, and life-long sustaining care. Care and service is provided in a collaborative multidisciplinary manner with input from the person served.

Location of Services

- Comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation, and inpatient care for management of medical problems is provided in the SCI unit (A-2) at the West Roxbury campus.
- The SCI Outpatient Clinics are located at the West Roxbury campus and open Mon-Friday from 8a-430p.
- The SCI home care team follows Veterans living within 100 miles radius of the SCI Center.

The spectrum of services provided at the Boston SCI center include:

- Medical and psychiatric management by Board certified SCI physicians
- Rehabilitation nursing
- Physical therapy including mobility training
- Occupational therapy
- Self-care and living skills training
- Seating evaluation and wheelchair prescription
- Aquatic or pool therapy
- Education in altered body function for the person served, families, and care-givers
- Therapeutic recreation, including wheelchair sports
- Vocational rehabilitation
- Driver's training and evaluation
- Wheelchair maintenance
- Rehabilitation technology including adaptive equipment
- Social work services

- Clinical psychology
- Respiratory therapy
- Ventilator management
- Urodynamics
- Sexuality counseling
- Chronic pain management
- Implantation and refilling of Baclofen pumps
- Telehealth
- Evaluation for home or work-place modification
- Respite care services
- Support groups

Close collaboration with other departments ensures easy access to additional services in an integrated manner to veterans with SCI. These include Prosthetics and Orthotics, Durable Medical Equipment, Plastic Surgery, Neurosurgery, Urology services, Pulmonary Function Tests, Speech-Language Pathology, Medical Nutrition therapy, and Chaplain Services.

Additional information about benefits:

Thanks to a new law, the Caregiver and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, Veterans with a spinal cord injury now qualify for an exemption from inpatient, outpatient and prescription copayments.

(DME) Durable Medical Equipment is provided free of charge when medically indicated. (Examples: a ramp, hospital bed, Hoyer lift, shower chair/commode, specialty mattresses and specialized wheelchairs)

Home Adaptation: Eligible Veterans with disabilities may receive assistance for home improvements to allow access to their home under the HISA Grant Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) program. <http://www.prosthetics.va.gov/HISA2.asp>

VA Driver Rehabilitation Program - The Driver Rehabilitation Program offers opportunity to enhance independence to individuals for return to an active life after an injury. Candidates' ability to drive, and the needed support and training, is determined based on clinical and behind-the-wheel assessments.

VA Boston/New England Adaptive Sports Program :

VA Boston Healthcare System offers many programs in-house and also teams with community partners

to provide a variety of sports and recreational activities including: kayaking, wheelchair basketball, softball, tennis, skiing, and hand-cycling... to name a few.

Fisher House - Fisher House Foundation donates "comfort homes," built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers. These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one during their inpatient stay and rehabilitation. Fisher House is located on the West Roxbury campus of the VA Boston Health Care System and is available to families and caretakers at no charge.

http://www.boston.va.gov/fisher_house.asp