

## *Veterans Affairs Boston Healthcare System*



*Brockton Community Living  
Center  
Hospice Unit*



### *What is hospice care?*

Hospice is a philosophy of palliative care that is intended for veterans who are in the last phase of life. The hospice philosophy of care aims to help veterans who are facing life-threatening illness live as well as possible for as long as possible. This care is provided by a diverse team of professionals whose goals include addressing all aspects of a veteran's care needs.

### *Our team*

Our hospice team includes the following interdisciplinary members:

- Physicians
- Nurse practitioners
- Nurses
- Nurse aides
- Social workers
- Psychologists
- Psychiatrists
- Chaplains
- Pharmacists
- Recreation therapists
- Dieticians
- Speech and language pathologists
- Kinesiotherapists
- Physical and occupational therapists

### *About our unit*

Our 15-bed inpatient hospice unit is located on the Brockton campus of the Boston VA. Hospice rooms are private to ensure that dignity is maintained during this important time in a veteran's life. We provide 24-hour nursing care and our full team is available during weekdays.

### *Admissions*

All admissions to our unit are done during weekdays, excluding holidays. This allows our full team to get to know our veterans and plan how we can provide the best care to them.

### *Visitation*

Receiving visits from loved ones can be therapeutic to our veterans and their loved ones. Given this, we usually have a liberal visitation policy. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, our visitation policy is more limited. As changes in our visitation policy evolve, we will provide updates. Pets are also welcome to visit with supervision by the person who brings in the pet.

## *Navigating the road ahead*

We acknowledge the challenges that veterans and their loved ones face during this difficult time. Our team aims to support veterans and those important to them in a variety of ways. The expertise of our interprofessional team can address a variety of practical issues that affect our veterans. This includes but is not limited to:

- Physical symptom management
- Assistance with activities of daily living
- Wound assessment and care
- Psychological distress and routine mental health care
- Conversation around goals of care and assistance with decision-making
- Spiritual assessment and support
- Rehabilitation for maintaining or improving strength and function
- Nutritional needs
- Assessment for safe feeding
- Offering of social activities within and outside of our building
- Benefits
- Advance care planning needs, such as designating a healthcare proxy

## *About the Brockton VA*

The Brockton campus of the Boston VA Healthcare System is the largest of its three campuses. Located 30 minutes south of Boston, the Brockton campus provides a comfortable environment for loved ones to gather with ready access to local restaurants, shops, and major thoroughfares. There is a cafeteria and a canteen shop on campus for more convenient food purchases. Buildings on this vast campus are connected by an above-ground tunnel system for more comfortable pedestrian travel during inclement weather.

## *Referrals and touring*

If you are interested in a referral for you or your loved one, please ask your doctor, social worker, or another member of your medical team to contact our transfer coordinator at (774) 273-1457. Our team aims to review all complete referrals within 24 hours, but our review process can take up to one business week if further clinical information is needed.

If a referral has been placed to our unit and you are interested in touring, please call the unit telephone number listed on the back of this pamphlet.

*Thank you for your interest in our unit.*



## *Address:*

*940 Belmont Street  
Building 7, unit 7-2-C  
Brockton, MA 02301*

## *Telephone:*

*(774) 826-1424*