

Honoring Our Veterans at the End of Life

Providing you or your loved one with excellent end-of-life care.



The Milwaukee VA has a commitment to strive for excellence in providing our Veterans and families with the special kinds of care and support needed at the end of life.

Care includes assistance with pain and comfort management. It also includes management of the social, psychological and spiritual needs of the Veteran and family.

We will ensure dignity and choice for our Veteran patient. We will share information with family members, as allowed.



Addressing Your Concerns Experienced at the End of Life

Comfort and Pain Relief

- Medicine to help control pain and discomfort
- Dimming lights, turning off alarms, and playing relaxing music to create a soothing environment
- Hot/cold compresses, therapeutic massage and aromatherapy
- Open communication with the patient and loved ones to be sure the Veteran's comfort needs are being met.

Communication

- The health care team will always listen to any concerns the Veteran or family may have.
- Family meetings can be arranged to allow additional discussion.
- The health care team will keep the Veteran and loved ones informed and answer questions about the plan of care.

Personal Care

- Repositioning of patient to prevent pressure ulcers (skin breakdown).
- Clean, smooth linens will be provided.
- Assistance with bathing, dressing, and grooming will be provided, based on the Veteran's needs and comfort level.

Reducing Stress

- Family and friends are encouraged to be with the Veteran.
- The Care Channel (TV channel 46) provides soothing music and images.
- We will check triggers for Post Traumatic Stress that may result in anxiety and distress for the Veteran.
- Our Vigil team will ensure that no Veteran dies alone.



Addressing Your Concerns Experienced at the End of Life

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Spiritual Support

- Chaplains from a variety of denominations are available in the medical center.
- Veterans and families are encouraged to invite their personal spiritual leaders to visit them at the bedside.

Benefits, Burial, and Funeral

- Social workers and burial detail clerks can provide information about memorial and survivor benefits and help the family make burial and funeral arrangements.
- Upon the Veteran's death, the family will meet with the Administrator of the Day (AOD) to discuss final arrangements.
- Grief counseling is available.

