The Hospice and Palliative Care Program at Bedford VA Hospital provides a Palliative Care approach to the care of eligible Veterans who have a diagnosed terminal illness and projected limited life span. It offers comfort rather than cure of the disease that is life limiting through comprehensive interdisciplinary care.

Admission Criteria for Hospice in the VA:

- The Veteran is enrolled and meets eligibility criteria for the VA healthcare system. Call Eligibility Department at 781-687-2275 or 781-687-2563 to confirm veteran’s enrollment in order to access VA Inpatient & Outpatient benefits. For more information visit www.va.gov.
- A VA physician has determined the Veteran’s life expectancy to be six months or less if the terminal illness runs its normal course.
- The Veteran and/or family have treatment goals focused on comfort rather than cure.
- The Veteran, family or significant other have had the prognosis explained to them and understand Veteran’s condition. Advance Directives are determined prior to admission.

Hospice and Palliative Care Team

- Howard Nachamie, MD (Howard.Nachamie@va.gov) Hospice Physician
- Mary (Betsy) Gallant, ARNP (Mary.Gallant@va.gov) Hospice and Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner
- Kristen Dillon, PsyD, ABPP (Kristen.Dillon@va.gov) Clinical Psychologist, Hospice and Palliative Care
- Mary Ellen Riordan, LICSW (MaryEllen.Riordan@va.gov) Hospice and Palliative Care Social Work Coordinator

Service Area: Bedford VA Medical Center serves Veterans from around the country when care is needed, and the Veteran is enrolled in the VA. Primarily, we serve Veterans in Massachusetts who are in the Essex, Middlesex, Suffolk, Norfolk and Plymouth counties in addition to Veterans in Southern New Hampshire.

Hospice Inpatient Program:

- State of the-art 13 bed Hospice unit, with private rooms and private baths.
- Interdisciplinary team comprised of an MD, Mid-Level Provider, Nursing, Psychologist, Social Worker, Chaplain, Dietitian, Recreation Therapist, Occupational Therapist and other therapies who work with the Veteran and family.
- Additional beds available in the Community Living Center (CLC) on site if the Hospice Unit is at full occupancy.

If Veteran is already enrolled and is seeking inpatient services, please contact Nurse Case Manager, Susan Williams at 781-687-3124.

If Veteran is already enrolled and is seeking Hospice and/or Palliative Care services in the community, the Veteran should contact his/her Primary Care Provider, 1-800-838-6331.

If you have other questions, please contact Hospice Palliative Care SW Coordinator, Mary Ellen Riordan at 781-687-2770.

RESOURCES:
Decedent Affairs Office: 781-687-2998
National Suicide prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK
National Cemetery information: www.cem.va.gov
Death and Burial Benefits www.cem.va.gov/bbene/benvba.asp
Military Discharge Information: www.vba.va.gov/vba/benefits/offices.asp
We Honor Veterans: www.wehonorVeterans.org