

# Information for Families of Active Duty Service Members Transferring to Tampa VA for Rehab

## Before You Arrive

You will be assigned a social worker at the Tampa VA to coordinate the admission process. The Tampa VA social worker will talk to you by phone or video-telephone (V-Tel) to plan for your arrival.

## *The Patient*

After the patient is accepted for transfer to the Tampa VA, plans are made for the actual transfer. This occasionally takes some time, depending upon where the transferring facility is located and the mode of transportation. When the patient arrives at the Tampa VA, the patient is admitted to a medical-surgical unit. A team of doctors will then check the patient to be sure the patient is ready to begin the rehabilitation process. Rehabilitation is hard work and the patient needs to be medically stable. (For more information see “How Rehabilitation Differs from Acute Care”.) Some tests may be repeated to see if the patient’s condition has changed, while others may be done to determine if the patient can tolerate rehabilitation.



After the patient is transferred from the medical unit to the rehabilitation unit, our staff will begin developing a rehabilitation treatment plan. You and the patient will meet many people. The rehabilitation process includes many team members. Some of them are:

- Doctor
- Occupational therapist
- Dietitian
- Social worker
- Physical therapist
- Speech therapist
- Psychologist
- Nurse

If the patient is an active duty service member, the team will also include military staff. The family and patient will meet with the treatment team to prepare treatment goals.

## *The Family*

In addition to assisting with the patient's hospital admission, the social worker will discuss the roles of the staff members who will be involved in the patient's rehab program. The social worker will also discuss what other needs you may have once you are here.

**Local Transportation:** If you are arriving by plane, the social worker will assist with transportation from the airport to the hospital and discuss this prior to admission. Sometimes, a military liaison will meet active duty service members and their family at the airport.

**Lodging:** The social worker will discuss your lodging needs while you stay in Tampa. He or she will discuss this with you prior to admission to make sure you will have a place to stay when you arrive. Tampa VA is home to a Fisher House, located on the hospital campus.

