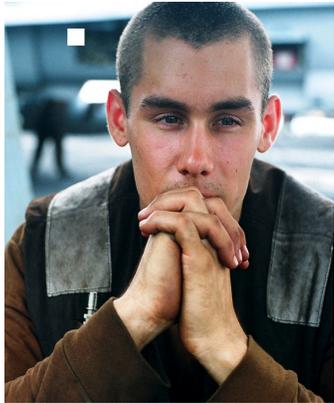


Polytrauma describes the condition of having combat-related injuries that result in persistent difficulties with a variety of symptoms.

VA Butler Healthcare offers a range of services to help treat Veterans suffering from these types of injuries.



A reality of combat is that some Veterans return with loss of limbs, traumatic brain injuries, and other severe injuries. We are here for you...



To learn more about Polytrauma services and specialty needs, call the Polytrauma Coordinator **800.362.8262, ext. 2493** or visit **polytrauma.va.gov**. We are here to help. It's our time to serve.

VA Butler Healthcare

*...providing quality health care
to our nation's Veterans*

ARMSTRONG COUNTY VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Klingensmith Building
313 Ford Street, Suite 2B
Ford City, PA 16226
724.763.4090

CLARION COUNTY VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

AC Valley Medical Center
855 Route 58, Suite One
Parker, PA 16049
724.659.5601

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Freedom Square
1183 Freedom Road, Suite A101
Cranberry Township, PA 16066
724.741.3131

LAWRENCE COUNTY VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Ridgewood Professional Centre
1750 New Butler Road
New Castle, PA 16101
724.598.6080

MICHAEL A. MARZANO VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

295 North Kerrwood Drive, Suite 110
Hermitage, PA 16148
724.346.1569



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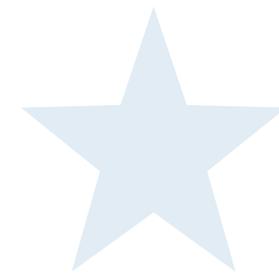
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Polytrauma



VA Butler Healthcare is committed to care for the men and women who have fought to protect us and keep us free.



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Polytrauma Services

What is Polytrauma?

Polytrauma is defined as blast-related injuries to two or more organ systems that result in physical, cognitive, psychological or psycho-social disabilities. VA Butler Healthcare offers threaded services to help treat Veterans with polytrauma injuries.

Traumatic Brain Injury

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) may occur when a Veteran experiences exposure to blasts or explosions, vehicle accidents, falls, or other **head trauma** during deployment or at home. This type of injury can range from very mild, involving only momentary confusion, to severe involving weeks or months of coma. The vast majority of Veterans experiencing mild traumatic brain injury (concussion) have no long term effects or complaints. However, some Veterans experience persistent difficulties with a variety of symptoms.

Possible Symptoms

- Lack of balance
- Feeling dazed or confused
- Disturbed sleep patterns
- Headaches
- Visual problems
- Light or sound sensitivity
- Irritability or anger
- Depression

Physiatry

As part of a TBI evaluation, Veterans will see a physician who specializes in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation. Specific information will be gathered regarding exposure to explosions or other injuries experienced during deployment and problems in your day-to-day living.

A physical exam focusing on the **neurologic system** – brain, spinal cord, and nerves – and any problem areas that are identified, will be conducted. After the evaluation, the physiatrist will discuss findings and recommendations about further evaluation and treatment.



Speech Pathology

In the second level polytrauma evaluation, a speech pathologist will screen the following: **speech, language, attention, memory, problem solving, reasoning, and visuospatial skills** (thought processes that involve visual and spatial awareness). A screening is either pass/fail and is completed to determine if further evaluation or treatment is clinically indicated.

Audiology

A case history will be taken to determine problems with **hearing**, what a Veteran may have been exposed to, **balance problems, tinnitus** (noise or ringing in the ears), and other important medical history related to the ears/hearing. Puretone testing is conducted to identify hearing loss, which requires listening for and responding to tones that you hear. A word recognition test is performed to see how accurately words are repeated when they are presented at a comfortable listening level.

Kinesiotherapy

Veterans will be evaluated on a computerized balance system that assesses **physical function**, balance disorders, defects of one or more of the senses, and mobility problems.

Behavioral Health

On the day of the evaluation, a psychologist will ask Veterans questions about their history, military and/or combat experiences, and any **mental health symptoms** that they may be experiencing. The psychologist will provide information about behavioral health services offered at VA Butler Healthcare and, if appropriate and agreeable, follow up appointments will be scheduled for outpatient mental health treatment.

Vocational Rehabilitation

A vocational rehabilitation specialist will assess needs in relation to a Veteran's level of functioning, with the goal of **helping them work and live** as independently as possible in the community. While the stated goal is employment, we also realize there are Veterans for whom competitive employment may not be a realistic goal, but for whom treatment in one or more of our services provides structure and support necessary to maintain functional abilities.

