



VA BUTLER HEALTHCARE
325 New Castle Rd.
Butler, PA 16001

News Release

Contact: Joshua Hudson or
Paula McCarl
(724) 285-2576 or 2575

For Immediate Release
June 15, 2010

VA OFFERS CHIROPRACTIC SERVICE AS AN ALTERNATIVE PAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

(BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA) – Under the Department of Veteran Affairs “Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001,” VA Butler Healthcare is one of a few VA facilities employing an on-site chiropractor, which is good news to Veterans.

“There are few hospitals in America that have chiropractors on staff,” said Dr. C. William McCaslin, staff chiropractor at the Butler VA. “I was originally hired as a contractor four years ago, but now I am here full time. It is important for the VA to offer these chiropractic services because many Veterans have issues from their military service.”

Serving in the military is a physically tolling experience. The average Soldier may carry 55 pounds or more of combat equipment in the field on a daily basis. All service members put their body under repeated and continual strain in less than ideal conditions. According to Rep. Rob Filner (D-Calif), the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee chairman, over 52 percent of our service members are diagnosed with musculoskeletal disorders.

“I was talking a lot of pills for my back,” said Nick Malis. A Butler-native, Malis injured his back while deployed as a Marine in Japan. For years, he lived anxiously waiting for his watch alarm to let him know it was OK to take his next dose of pain medication.

“After I started seeing the chiropractor, I have cut my pain meds in half,” said Malis. “The alarm goes off on my watch and I can usually wait another couple of hours.”

Malis is one of many Veterans who are seeing an improvement in their quality of life.

Johnstown-native Zachary “Zack” Hubbard, retired from the Army in 2001. “I had a lot of wear and tear over 24 years,” said Hubbard. “I was taking muscle relaxants for my back that would put me down for a couple of days at a time.”

Suffering from chronic back pain, Hubbard was referred to a chiropractor from his VA primary care doctor. “The service has made my life less painful and increased my mobility. I can rake the leaves around the house now. I have more quality of life now without the pain pills.”

Dr. McCaslin sees the increasing need for chiropractic services for veterans. “Our Veterans are living longer and some have been suffering 20 years or more with pain. Veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have a long life ahead of them too. Here at the Butler VA I can coordinate with the primary care team to restore more function to the body and help reduce their pain.”

The goal, according to Dr. McCaslin, is to “restore the spine to its best possible function.” It is a holistic approach to health which can show results quickly with none of the risks of surgery or drug treatments.

“It changed my life,” said Hubbard. “I just feel better.”

VA Butler Healthcare, located on a scenic wooded 88-acre campus in the heart of Butler County, Pennsylvania, is the provider of choice for over 17,000 Veterans throughout Western Pennsylvania and parts of Ohio. VA Butler, a member of VA Healthcare-VISN 4, provides primary care, specialty care, mental health and social support services to Veterans at its main campus and serves a rural Veteran population through community based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) in Armstrong County, southern Butler County (Cranberry Township), Clarion County, Lawrence County, and Mercer County. VA Butler Healthcare has over 600 employees and volunteers dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of America’s heroes, now and in the future. For more information about VA Butler Healthcare, and links to special programs and initiatives, interested persons can log onto <http://www.butler.va.gov>. Media queries and requests should be directed to David Virag at (724)-285-2576 or David.Virag@va.gov. # # # #