Respite Care

Staying strong for your Veteran means staying strong for yourself. Get refreshed through VA Butler Healthcare’s Respite Care Program

What is Respite Care?
Respite Care provides caregivers a break from taking care of the Veteran they love. While a Veteran gets respite care, the caregiver can go out of town, seek medical attention, or simply take a much-needed rest at home.

Respite care is for Veterans who need skilled services, case management, and assistance with activities of daily living (e.g., bathing or getting dressed) or instrumental activities of daily living (e.g., fixing meals and taking medicines); are isolated or whose caregiver is experiencing burden.

Respite care can be helpful to Veterans of all ages, and their caregiver. Respite care can help lower the stress the Veterans and their caregiver may feel when managing a Veteran's long term care needs at home.

Veterans who receive respite care at VA Butler Healthcare will receive personalized daily care, food choices, medications (administered by VA nursing staff), and will be invited to participate in various recreational and spiritual programs and activities.

Am I Eligible for Respite Care?
Veterans must be enrolled for VA care and receive established, ongoing health care services at VA Butler to be eligible. **Eligibility requirements include:**

- The Veteran has a diagnosed chronic disabling illness or condition
- The Veteran lives at home and requires substantial assistance in Activities of Daily Living (ADL) in order to continue to reside safely in the home
- The Veteran’s caregiver needs temporary or intermittent relief from day-to-day care tasks in order to sustain this care-giving role
- The Veteran meets clinical criteria (Veteran must have had a recent primary care visit with lab work. The Respite Care Coordinator will help to facilitate this if necessary)

Respite Care Admissions
Respite Care is a pre-scheduled admission designed to offer short-term relief (up to 30 days, but no less than 4 days) from the care and responsibility of the Veteran. If a specific date is needed (i.e., for a family vacation), it is never too early to call and make the necessary arrangements.

**Respite Care Admission Process:**
- Call VA Butler Healthcare’s Respite Care Coordinator – 724-282-5523
- Complete the *Respite Care Application* (it will be mailed to the caregiver the month prior to admission).
- Receive notification from the Respite Care Coordinator of acceptance (typical) or denial (unusual) by telephone

Additional information may be requested to complete the screening process. For example, you may be asked to complete a second financial form for admission. For most Veterans there is no charge for respite care, but the Respite Care Coordinator will work with you to address this information and resolve any financial issues.

VA Butler Healthcare can accommodate a limited number of Veterans at one time into the respite program. If a bed is not available on site in the Community Living Center, the respite care will not be cancelled, rather the Respite Care Coordinator will make arrangements for the Veteran to be placed into a skilled nursing facility in the community at VA's expense.

**For more information about VA Butler Healthcare’s Inpatient Respite Care Program, contact the Respite Care Coordinator 1-800-362-8262, ext. 5523.**