

## The Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center Minneapolis VA Medical Center



1 Veterans Drive  
Minneapolis, MN 55417

The mission of the Comprehensive Inpatient Brain Injury Program (CIBIP) at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center is to maximize the quality of life of veterans and active duty personnel with acquired brain injuries through the use of rehabilitation services. To accomplish this, the program focuses on improving functional independence, returning individuals to meaningful daily activity and their usual social roles, promoting positive social interaction and integration, and reducing negative or destructive behaviors.

The Minneapolis VA Brain Injury Team was established in 1984 and has participated as a Lead TBI Center in the VA TBI Network of Care since its inception and in the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC) since 1992.

In addition to a CARF-accredited inpatient program that is the cornerstone of care, we offer services on a subacute unit, as well as through lodger and outpatient programming. Outcomes are monitored via national measures and benchmarks, internally developed measures to track areas of particular interest to the Brain Injury Team, and by meeting standards of national accreditation boards such as CARF and JCAHO.

The Minneapolis VAMC is a tertiary care facility that is able to provide the full range of ancillary services, such as neurosurgery, psychiatry, and neuro-ophthalmology, required by severely brain-injured patients. All staff members have received specialized professional training in the care of individuals with acquired brain injury.

Referrals are accepted from throughout the United States and all levels of care requiring inpatient services are provided. Admission criteria to the inpatient unit include: medical stability, personal goals compatible with the program, need for the services of a physiatrist, rehabilitation nursing, and an interdisciplinary team; and a reasonable expectation of improvement and discharge to a less restrictive level of care. Patients at all Rancho Los Amigos Cognitive Levels are eligible to receive care, and often the most complex cases are referred here.

The programs have an interdisciplinary focus with patient and family as integral members of the team. Family involvement is encouraged throughout the rehabilitation stay. Low cost accommodations are available on campus: The

Minneapolis VAMC is fortunate to have a Fisher House. Family members are encouraged to observe in therapy sessions and participate in evening and weekend activities.

Active case management is an integral element in the rehabilitation process. From the time of the initial referral, the brain injury case manager is actively involved in assessing patient and family needs and coordinating necessary services while maintaining awareness of funding opportunities. Customer service surveys consistently identify case management as one of the services most beneficial to the patient and family.

The Minneapolis VAMC is a modern facility, with three open atria where waiting areas and the cafeteria are located, a computer lab and a patient education center. The facility is located a short distance from the Twin Cities Metropolitan Airport and the Mall of America. It is easily accessible by major highways as well as by public transportation.

The Minneapolis VA maintains academic affiliations with several professional schools in the local area and has one of the largest education and training programs in the VA system. The Minneapolis Brain Injury Program serves as the primary training site for physical medicine and rehabilitation residents from the University of Minnesota. We are also a training institution for occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech/language pathologists, interns, psychologists, student nurses and advanced practice nurses with an interest in rehabilitation. The Minneapolis VA maintains contracts with 24 universities to provide allied health training in 36 programs.

Minneapolis is noted for its quality of life as evidenced by the fine medical care and educational facilities, as well as employment opportunities. It is noted for the natural beauty of its lakes and parks, and is nationally recognized for the arts. The Twin Cities are home to five professional sports teams.

For additional information please contact:

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