

## *End-of-Life Healthcare Benefits for Veterans*

Approximately 25% of all Americans who pass away each year are US Veterans; men and women who have honorably served in the US Armed Forces. Yet only 4% of those Veterans utilize valuable End-of-Life healthcare benefits they have earned from the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

End-of-Life care costs can add up quickly, particularly for Veterans who may have healthcare challenges as a result of their dedication and service. The VA offers important resources to help Veterans Servicemen and their families to manage End-of-Life healthcare.

### *Healthcare Benefits for Elderly Veterans*

The VA provides a variety of healthcare benefits specifically for elderly Veterans, including geriatric health care and long-term care programs. Go to: <http://www.va.gov/GERIATRICS/Guide/LongTermCare/index.asp>.

#### *Geriatrics and Long-Term Care*

Geriatrics is healthcare for elderly Veterans with complex needs. Extended care or long-term care are programs for Veterans who need daily support and assistance with practical tasks like meals, medication, bathing and dressing.

Elderly Veterans can receive geriatric and long-term care programs at home, at VA medical centers or in the community. These Geriatrics healthcare programs are available through the VA:

- Home-Based and Community Services  
Adult day health care, home-based primary care, homemaker and home health aide care, hospice and palliative care, Program for All-inclusive Care of the Elderly, respite care, skilled home health care, Telehealth care and Veteran directed care.

- **Nursing Home and Residential Settings**  
Long-term care placement in community living centers, community nursing homes, state Veterans homes, community residential settings, adult family homes, assisted living and medical foster homes.
- **Innovative Approaches to Home-Based Care**  
Care management and transitional care, dementia case management, geriatric primary and specialty care, hospice and palliative care, mobile adult day health care, among others.
- **Shared Decision-Making**  
Medical and other care providers who facilitate choices about long-term care and support services.
- **Geriatric Research Programs**  
Programs to increase knowledge about the aging process and diseases of the elderly and improving the quality of elder care. The Geriatric Patient Aligned Care Team program offers ambulatory care for community-dwelling Veterans with challenging healthcare needs.

### *Caregiver Support*

Professional caregivers and family members of Veterans may receive tax-free money to care for veterans or surviving spouses. For information visit: [http://www.caregiver.va.gov/support/support\\_services.asp](http://www.caregiver.va.gov/support/support_services.asp).

### *End-of-Life Management Benefits*

US Veterans have earned our nation's respect and gratitude. End-of-Life healthcare benefits from the VA provide Veterans with the dignity and recognition they deserve.

Are you or a loved one a US Veteran? For more resources on US Veteran benefits and services and other End-of-Life Management topics, go to: [www.passare.com](http://www.passare.com)