

Continuity of Care Team

The Spinal Cord Injury/Dysfunction (SCI) Service has established a continuity of care team. These services are available to our veterans who live within a 75 mile radius of the St. Louis VA Medical Center. Exceptions to that distance limitation can be made on a case-by-case basis.

Visits are designed to provide continued medical, rehabilitative and psychosocial support to our patients in their home environment. This follows the initial rehabilitation admission and continues throughout the veteran's life, with visits made at least once a year and more often as needed. This support serves as a bridge between the Medical Center and the home, as a way of fostering optimal adjustment on the part of patients and their families.

The team consists of a registered nurse, a rehabilitation therapist, and a social worker. They provide specialized services within their areas of expertise. Typical services include:

- Medical screening
- Skin, medication, bowel and bladder care
- Vaccinations
- Baclofen pump check-up and adjustments
- Review of medication and supplies
- Evaluation of wheelchair and equipment needs, and home accessibility
- Reinforcement of safe equipment use
- Evaluation of psychosocial issues
- Referrals to available resources
- Encouragement towards maximal participation in a patient's community
- Education

In our experience these visits help our relationship with our patients and their families. It is a key component in our efforts to treat the whole person.

Our Home Care Team consists of:

- **Karen Diemert, Social Worker**
- **Kathy Fonod, RN**
- **Debbie Gray, Occupational Therapist**
- **Bob Sontag, Social Worker**

Please call 314-894-6677 or 800-228-5459, ext 6-6677 for more details.