

**St. Louis VA Medical Center - Spinal Cord Injury Service
VA Heartland Network (VISN 15)**

Social Work

Social Workers cover many roles and tasks. The Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Service has 2 social workers who often are supported by Social Work interns.

Based on the identification of the individual's needs, services include:

- Referral for financial assistance, including Social Security, SSI, VA compensation or pension
- Discharge planning for inpatients
- Crisis intervention
- Hooking patients up with other members of the SCI interdisciplinary team
- Referring patients for assistance with home modifications for wheelchair accessibility
- Arrangements for skilled nursing care or custodial care in the patient's home
- Assistance in joining relevant organizations, such as Paralyzed Veterans of America, MS Society, National Family Caregivers' Association, etc.
- Assistance in attendant recruitment and training
- Liaison with families
- Assistance with Advance Directives (living will) and organ donations
- Referral to motels/hotels for families visiting hospitalized veterans
- Liaison with SCI Coordinators at other VA Medical Centers
- Referral for Fee Basis payments to caregivers for bowel & bladder care of the veteran
- Assistance in identifying options and resources for transportation
- Linkages to community resources such as Centers for Independent Living, Vet Centers, Area Agencies on Aging, etc.
- Provision of phone cards, canteen books, educational materials, parking permits, etc.

Our Social Workers also play key roles in the Family Education Workshop, Peer Support Program, Wellness Group, and Community Re-Entry Program.



**Please contact us with your
questions or concerns at
314-652-4100 or 800-228-5459**

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