



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Hospital – August/September 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Hospital - Michigan

National Theme: *From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free*

Department Theme: *We Don't Know Them All, But We Owe Them All*

Hospital All Star Gift Card Table Thank you to all the auxiliaries which donated to the All-Star Gift Card Table at the Department Convention. It was so successful that we sold out!! We made over \$1,100 for the Hospital Program. Start planning on those motions at your auxiliaries to buy gift cards for the Fall Conference. I want to give a special shout out to what I call my Hospital Team. Those are the ladies who sit at the Hospital table all through the conferences and conventions, so you have a chance for \$5 to get a gift card valued at \$5 to \$25.

VA Phone-Based Emergency Care Goes National. Emergency care is now available by phone for veterans enrolled in the VA health care system. Tele-emergency care (tele-EC) gives veterans access to VA emergency care from anywhere. “Veterans can now be evaluated for possible emergencies from the comfort of their home. Sometimes you’re not sure whether what you are experiencing is a minor emergency or not, and the tele-emergency care can help you resolve those questions” said the VA Undersecretary for Health Dr. Shereef Elnahal. As part of VA Health Connect, a clinical triage nurse evaluates veterans over the phone or through video chat. In cases where there’s a life-threatening emergency, the triage nurse calls 911.

This program, piloted this year, has helped more than 60,000 callers and so far, has a case resolution of 59%. Tele-EC does not replace the need for in-person emergency evaluation, but for veterans in rural areas or those with mobility issues, a call can save driving time, waiting and possibly exposure to other’s illnesses. It also does not require a co-pay. Tele -EC is one of many ways the VA is increasing veterans’ access to VA health care. To enroll in VA care, visit [va.gov/health-care/how to apply](https://va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply). Please share this information with your veterans.

Medical Foster Home Program. When living at home becomes difficult, some people prefer to remain in a home-like setting rather than move to a nursing home. In moments like these, the VA Medical Foster Home (MFH) is here to help. MFH is a voluntary option that assists in matching veterans with approved MFH caregivers to provide care in a family home. The veterans receive appropriate oversight provided by the VA MFH and Home-Based Primary Care. Payment for the care will be made by the veteran to the caregiver and the cost of care will be based on the veteran’s care needs and financial resources. Caregivers must have prior experience (formal or informal) and have the compassion and motivation to provide 24/7 supervision to the veteran placed in their home. To ensure safety and quality of care, there are multiple steps and training requirements to become a VA MFH caregiver. This program is not available to an already-approved caregiver to a veteran.

Hospital Reporting Tips. On the Department website under Programs/Hospital, you will find Hospital Reporting Tips. Please print this out and refer to it when you are reporting your

hospital reports. Keep up the good hospital work and be sure when reporting to give lots of detail, especially if you have been doing something creative to bring smiles to our veterans.

Photographs. Keep posting those photographs of your auxiliary filling those toilet paper and paper towel tubes. I share them with the National Hospital Ambassador – and of course, Blanche Brown will want to grab them for her program. Another suggestion is to make labels which have your Auxiliary information, so those receiving them know where they are from – and also label which ones are sugar free. Y'all are doing a great job.

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