



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER Huntington, West Virginia

The Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC), located in the Spring Valley area west of Huntington, is a fully accredited 80-bed acute care facility providing medical, surgical, rehabilitative and intermediate inpatient care, in addition to primary and specialized outpatient care, including mental health, dental, podiatry and optometry. Extensive use of community resources, as well as community nursing homes for post-hospitalization care, complements the medical center's treatment programs. The Huntington VAMC has VA staffed Outpatient Clinics in Prestonsburg, Kentucky and Charleston, West Virginia. Contracted primary care clinics are located in Williamson and Logan, West Virginia. A future clinic is planned for Gallipolis, Ohio. The medical center's mission is to provide quality health care services to veterans while supporting education and research.

The Huntington VAMC has over 60 different affiliated training programs in 27 healthcare fields. In addition, the medical center has a research building that supports research laboratories, a DNA Sequencing facility, common-use equipment rooms, radioactive hot lab, conference room, offices, and state-of-the-art AAALAC-accredited animal quarters. Huntington's research program has a growing number of active research protocols and grants along with an active Institutional Review Board (with Marshall University), animal studies, and safety and biosafety subcommittees as well as a research and development committee.

The Huntington VAMC is recognized for its advancement of computer technology including a fully computerized patient record system and a bar code medication administration system. A wireless system on inpatient units allows orders to be entered by the physician at bedside. The medical center has implemented a Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS) called Vista Imaging. The project began in Radiology, allowing digital archival and retrieval of images from General Radiology, and has expanded to include CT, Ultrasound, Cardiology ECG's, portable X-Ray, Optometry, and even the digitizing of critical documents and hard film. These images enhance the electronic patient record by allowing their access on virtually any workstation in the medical center.