

Do you have a ride?



Ask about your discharge
appointment and schedule
your transportation!

My discharge day is _____

My discharge time is _____

To Do Checklist

- Do I have a ride?
- Does my ride know what time to pick me up?
- Do I have all the medical equipment or supplies I will need at home?
- Do I have all of my valuables from patient belongings?
- If I am going to need assistance after I get home, have I made arrangements with family or friends?
- If the doctor ordered home care, do I know how to contact the agency?
- If I am going to need tele-health services, do I know how to contact the tele-health coordinator?
- Will I need to return to the VA to see my doctor? If so, do I know about my appointment?

VA Boston
Healthcare System

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Preparing to
Leave the
Hospital

Discharge Appointments

Preparing to leave the Hospital

We can plan for a smoother discharge by scheduling a discharge appointment time for you . This allows each team member to know when you are expected to leave the hospital. This also helps us know when a bed will be available for a fellow veteran entering the hospital.

Everything that needs to be done before discharge will be taken care of before your discharge appointment time. You and your family will have time to prepare for your return home or to another level of care.

Having a scheduled time for discharge from the hospital lets everyone — patients, caregivers, and staff — be organized and ready on the day of discharge.

It will:

□ Improve patient satisfaction

- ⇒ Plans can be made ahead of time for equipment, transportation, or other services that are needed;
- ⇒ It is more convenient and less confusing.

□ Improve quality of care

- ⇒ Patients don't wait as long for tests and test results.

□ Improve the use of hospital resources

- ⇒ Waiting times for beds are reduced;
- ⇒ Patients enter and leave the hospital at a steady rate.

Once your doctor has written your discharge order, our goal is to have you on your way as soon as possible. Setting a discharge appointment time also helps your VA staff to do a better job of communicating with you and your family or caregiver.

We want all of our patients to feel they received **EXCELLENT** care while in the hospital. Making a discharge appointment is one way we can improve the care we provide.

If you have any questions or comments, please speak with your physician, nurse, or social work representative.

Do your checklist the day before!!!!

See the back page of this brochure for your Discharge Checklist.