



## How to Request Lodging in Conjunction with Consultation or Treatment

**Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center**  
**2002 Holcombe Blvd.**  
**Houston, Texas 77030**  
**713.791.1414 or toll-free 1.800.553.2278**  
[www.houston.va.gov](http://www.houston.va.gov)

### Planning Your Visit

The Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC) is proud to serve Veterans and provide support to their families. We are fortunate to have housing options available for those Veterans and their families who have a medical need for temporary lodging. Because of the large number of Veterans we serve, we cannot guarantee housing will be available for everyone.

### Planning Your Stay

In preparing to come to the MEDVAMC, we ask you consider and plan for your visit by following these steps:

1. Confirm with your local VA Medical Center or VA Clinic what you are being referred to the MEDVAMC for, when you are scheduled to be there, and how long you may have to stay.
2. Ask if you are required to bring someone with you if you need assistance after your procedure or stay.
3. If you are planning to drive to Houston, ask if you will be able to drive yourself back unassisted after you are discharged. If not, what are your options?
4. Consider if you can afford to bring family with you. If you have children under the age of 18, please make arrangements for their care. Do you have available child care?
5. How much money will you need to bring with you?
  - a. Meals (\$15-\$30 a day per person)
  - b. Lodging (Local hotels in close proximity are \$57-90 a day)
  - c. Transportation (available at some hotels)
6. Can you afford to do this on your own?

If you cannot afford your travel, meals, and lodging, have issues regarding child care, or need/desire to bring family with you, please make sure you have a plan before you come. Assistance might be available through your local VA Medical Center or Clinic. *Check with your local Social Worker* at your home VA Medical Center to see what resources are available.

## **Housing Options at the MEDVAMC**

**Fisher House:** 3 to 10 night stays; available for eligible families of Veterans receiving care at MEDVAMC. Each Fisher House room has a private room and bath plus a fully functional shared kitchen area. Families are encouraged to bring the food they will prepare during their stay.

**Off-Site Facility:** 1 to 5 night stays available Sunday through Thursday; available for Veterans receiving care at MEDVAMC. Family member may stay with the Veteran, but not alone. At the off-site lodging facility, mini-kitchens are available in the room. Transportation is available from the off-site facility beginning at 6:30 a.m. and runs every hour on the half hour until 8:30 p.m. in the evening.

## **General Criteria for MEDVAMC Lodging**

- Housing is medically necessary for pre- or post-care.
- Be medically stable and capable of self-care or be accompanied by a caregiver able to provide care.
- Be required to travel more than 100 miles from their home to the VA.
- Can stay in an unsupervised setting.
- Have no communicable diseases.

## **Other Issues**

- Family Members: We understand your desire to accompany your loved one on a trip to our facility, but housing is not always available for Veterans or family. If there is not a medical need for lodging or for you to be with the Veteran, you must make your own housing and meal arrangements prior to coming to Houston. You might ask your social worker for assistance in locating lodging.
- Since room availability is limited, it is your responsibility to make lodging, meals, and transportation plans, prior to coming to MEDVAMC. If you have any questions, please contact either your referring physician or social worker.
- Veterans and families being treated on an outpatient basis are responsible for their own meals.

**If you need to contact us to confirm your reservation status, call toll-free 1.800.553.2278, ext 8095.**