



Department of  
Veterans Affairs

Office of Public Affairs  
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# Fact Sheet

## Veterans Health Library

### Technology Overview

The Veterans Health Library (VHL), developed by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention's Veterans Health Education and Information Section, in partnership with the Veterans and Consumers Health Informatics Office, was launched on May 28, 2013. The VHL offers Veterans on-line 24/7 access to comprehensive, consistent, Veteran-focused health information regardless of where they receive care. The VHL is available via the internet at <http://www.veteranshealthlibrary.org> or via My Health eVet at <http://www.myhealth.va.gov>

The VHL helps Veterans and their family members/caregivers:

- Understand and manage health problems
- Communicate with their health care team and share decisions about their health
- Stay well and well-informed.

The VHL helps VHA clinical staff:

- Enhance patient-centered care
- Partner and share health care decision-making with Veterans and their family members/caregivers
- Communicate effectively in plain language
- Meet the needs of diverse patients
- Provide health information aligned with VA clinical practice guidelines and policies
- Ensure consistent health information is provided throughout VA
- Educate patients in face-to-face, telephone and secure messaging encounters (Note: VHA clinicians using secure messaging can provide patients links to VHL content)

The VHL:

- Is designed to be: engaging, Veteran-focused and friendly; tailored to Veterans' health literacy and numeracy needs; written in "plain language"
- Provides reliable, consistent, health information to our Veterans, their family members and caregivers
- Content is reviewed and approved by VHA clinical experts, designated by their VA Central Office clinical program offices, to ensure VHL content is consistent with VA-

DoD Clinical Practice Guidelines, VHA Clinical Preventive Services Guidance Statements, and VHA clinical policy and health care delivery practices.

- Features Veteran-specific health topics, such as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), Agent Orange exposure, combat-related traumatic brain injury, and spinal cord injury/disease.
- Has been improved with testing and feedback from Veterans, family members, and VHA health care team members.

VHL content includes:

- Over 1,500 printable health sheets, in both English and Spanish
- More than 150 videos
- Online workbooks that contain text, audio, and graphics

VHL content will be regularly reviewed and updated, and new information will be developed as needed.

Below is the VHL Badge which will be housed in the VHA Communications Badge Library for VHA Webmasters and Public Affairs Officers to download and use on their websites and promotional materials.

### **Technology Components**

Veteran-focused, VHA-vetted on-line health information available 24/7 via the internet.

### **Website/Links:**

[www.prevention.va.gov](http://www.prevention.va.gov)