

**VA****U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**

# News Release

Office of Public Affairs  
Media RelationsWashington, DC 20420  
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[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 21, 2016

## **Secretary Takes Action to Ensure Project ARCH Veterans Continue to Receive Care Closer to Home**

*Coverage Continues Through Exemption in Choice Program*

Augusta, Maine – As the [Project ARCH](#) pilot program comes to an end next month, Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert A. McDonald today announced that Veterans enrolled in the program will be able to continue receiving care closer to home. Taking advantage of options available under the [Veterans Choice Program](#), such as the “unusual or excessive burden provision” and Provider Agreements, Veterans receiving care under Project ARCH will continue care without interruption when the pilot program ends August 7.

“There is nothing more important to us than serving the Veterans who served our country,” said Secretary McDonald. “My commitment to those Veterans under Project ARCH is that we will do everything within our control to make sure they maintain continuity of care in their communities with the providers they know.”

Project ARCH operates in Maine, Virginia, Kansas, Montana and Arizona. In anticipation of the program’s end, Project ARCH providers have been contacted and invited to continue to provide health care to Veterans under the Veterans Choice Program.

“VA appreciates the Veterans and community providers who participated in the program,” said Dr. Baligh Yehia, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Community Care. “VA is employing lessons learned and best practices from the program as we work to build one [consolidated program for community care](#) – a program that delivers the best of both VA and the community.”

Veterans transitioning to the Veterans Choice Program are being contacted regarding their individual care.

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