Message from the Director

Thank you for choosing Erie VA Medical Center (VAMC) for your health care! Our goal is to provide exceptional health care and excellent customer service for our Nation’s Veterans. Over the past year, we’ve made significant strides to accomplish that goal.

As part of our $25 Million construction plan, we broke ground on several new projects including our new Community Living Center (skilled nursing home) to provide a state-of-the-art home for our residents (see back page for more construction details).

We’ve helped establish and support an active and thriving MyVA Community Engagement Board - Your Veteran Community Action & Outreach Team (COAT) - which aims to build an integrated community support system to advocate, connect, and coordinate resources for Veterans, service members, and military families.

Another exciting initiative we’re working on launching a whole health model of care. This model of care combines physical care with psychosocial care where we focus on the Veteran’s personal health and life goals, aiming to provide personalized, proactive, patient-driven care through multidisciplinary teams of health professionals.

As director, my vision for our Erie VAMC is that we become Veterans #1 Provider of Choice as well as being a Best Place to Work for our employees. With your support, we can make this vision our reality.

I look forward to all we can accomplish together for the Veterans we are so honored to serve. Thank you for your continued support!

John Gennaro
Director, Erie VAMC

New Patient Orientation Class

Learn about your VA Medical Center

Date: Every 3rd Wednesday
Time: 10am-11:30pm
Location: Erie VAMC 2nd Floor Conference Rooms; offered virtually via Telehealth at McKean, Warren, and Venango clinics.
Contact: 814-868-8661 & press 2 to enroll for the class.

Want to learn more about your Erie VAMC? Sign up for our New Patient Orientation Class that provides you with an overview on the programs and services available at your Erie VAMC. Whether you’re new to VA or you’ve been coming to us for years, you’re sure to learn more about your VA health care. All are welcome to attend!

Sign up to Receive Email Updates

Stay up-to-date on all the latest Erie VAMC happenings! Sign up to receive monthly email updates regarding VA news, events, and more! Visit www.erie.va.gov and enter your email address on the right-hand side of the screen to subscribe for your Erie VAMC email updates.
Emergency Care in the Community - Fact Sheet
What to do when you need emergency care at a non-VA facility.

What do I do if I have a true emergency?
If you are experiencing a life-threatening medical emergency, please call 911 or visit the nearest emergency room. Please note, even if it is a true emergency, VA pay is not guaranteed.

If it is not life-threatening, visit the Erie VA Urgent Care Center (open everyday from 8am-8pm) or visit the nearest VA Clinic (open M-F from 8am-4:30pm) for care.

Who will pay for my non-VA emergency room visit or admission?
VA pay is not guaranteed. Pay depends on your eligibility and whether the incident is considered a true medical emergency. **To be considered for VA payment, it is your responsibility to contact the Erie VAMC within 72 hours** when you present to a community emergency department. Calling does not guarantee VA payment.

Who do I call to be considered for VA pay?
Call the Erie VA Care in the Community team at 814-860-2320 or after 4:30pm, call 814-868-8661 and ask for the Medical Administration Assistant. You must call within 72 hours of your non-VA emergency visit.

What do I do if the VA clinics are closed and I have questions?
For health-related questions, call the main Erie VAMC line at 814-868-8661 or toll-free (800) 274-8387 and press 3 to speak to a nurse. For payment-related questions, call the main Erie VAMC line and ask to speak to the Medical Administration Assistant.

**Additional Questions? Call us.**
Erie VA Care in the Community Team
(814) 860-2320
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

After 4:30 p.m., you can call (814) 868-8661 and ask for the Medical Administration Assistant.

**VA payment is not guaranteed.**
**To be considered for payment, you must call the VA within 72 hours of your non-VA emergency visit.**
Farmer’s Markets
Stop by one of Erie VAMC’s Farmer’s Markets for fresh fruit, fresh veggies, & fun entertainment!
Location: Erie VA 2nd Floor Pavilion
Time: 11am-2pm
Dates:
• Friday, June 16
• Friday, July 14
• Friday, August 25
Follow our Erie VAMC Facebook page for all the details.

Welcome Home Veterans Event
Date: Friday, August 18
Time: 6pm-9pm
Location: Erie Zoo
Ticket Information: Tickets will be available starting mid-July. More details to come! Stay tuned at www.erie.va.gov for all the details!

Volunteer Drivers Needed
Looking for a great way to give back to local Veterans? Become a DAV Volunteer Driver and help transport patients to and from their appointments. DAV Volunteer Drivers transport Veteran patients to and from the Erie VAMC, Pittsburgh VAMC, Buffalo VAMC, and Cleveland VAMC for appointments.

If you want to make a HUGE difference in the lives of local Veterans, call Erie VAMC’s Voluntary Service Office at 814-860-2454 today!

New Medication Copayments
VA charges a copayment for each 30 day or less supply of medication provided on an outpatient basis for the treatment of a non-service connected condition. Medication Copayments Amounts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Group</th>
<th>Outpatient Medication Tier</th>
<th>Copayment Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1-30 day supply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-8</td>
<td>Tier 1 (Preferred Generics)</td>
<td>$5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tier 2 (Non-Preferred Generics and some OTCs)</td>
<td>$8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tier 3 (brand Name)</td>
<td>$11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$700 Medication Copayment Cap</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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These changes apply to:
• Veterans without a service-connected condition, or
• Veterans with a disability rated less than 50%
  » who are receiving outpatient treatment for a non-service connected condition, and
  » whose annual income exceeds the limit set by law.

Please note: Medication copayments do not apply to former Prisoners of War, catastrophically disabled Veterans, or those covered by other exceptions as set by law.

For more information, call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), or visit our website at www.va.gov/healthbenefits.

No matter what you’re going through, help is available.
Connect with support 24/7 at VeteransCrisisLine.net

Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1
Construction Updates

Erie VAMC is in the midst of a $25 million construction and renovation plan which will take shape over the next couple of years. Projects underway currently include the new, stand-alone Community Living Center (CLC), the renovation and replacement of the aged boiler plant, the renovation of the emergency power generation, and a new traffic flow improvement project.

During this time, there will be several parking and traffic flow changes including a temporary roadway connecting the Navel Reserve Center entrance to south parking lots in replace of our Old French Road entrance. Stay up-to-date with the latest construction news at [www.erie.va.gov/construction](http://www.erie.va.gov/construction). Current Construction Map:

"The award of these projects shows a clear investment in our future and, ultimately, in the longevity of our facility."

- John Gennaro, Erie VAMC Director