

## Providence VA one of 7 centers to offer new Hospital-in-Home program

PROVIDENCE – The Providence VA Medical Center is one of seven Veterans Health Administration facilities participating in a new Hospital-in-Home program.

It was launched in August for veterans who are medically stable, but traditionally would have been admitted as inpatients. The Hospital-in-Home program provides hospital-level care in the veteran's own home.

Since it started at the Providence VAMC, 104 veterans have been referred for evaluation, 75 were accepted, and 73 have been successfully treated and discharged. Of the veterans treated to date, 30 percent were evaluated for admission to the program after coming to the emergency room.

"We've received rave reviews from veterans and their family members about the program," said **THOMAS MOCK**, chief of the Social Work and Geriatric Extended Care services at the Providence VAMC. He added that the Hospital-in-Home program can also improve access to care for other veterans, by freeing-up hospital beds that may have otherwise been filled without the program.

"Home care helps reduce the risk of infections and falls, and allows



PROVIDENCE VA MEDICAL CENTER PHOTO BY WINFIELD DANIELSON

Anthony Witherstone, a registered nurse with the Providence VA Medical Center's Hospital-in-Home program, uses a stethoscope to listen to the lungs of Ray Edington, a Navy Seabee Veteran of Vietnam, at his home in Woonsocket, R.I., Thursday, Jan. 14, 2016. Ray had an infection that would normally have required a hospital stay for treatment, but he and his wife, Karen Edington, were offered an alternative through the Hospital-in-Home program.

veterans to spend more time with the people they care about," said **DR. SUSAN MACKENZIE**, director of the Providence VAMC. "We're honored to

be a part of this new program, helping VA provide the exceptional health care Veterans have earned through their service and sacrifice." ❖

## CharterCARE opens new outpatient Integrated Behavioral Health Center

PROVIDENCE – CharterCARE Health Partners has announced the opening of its new Integrated Behavioral Health Center, an outpatient program designed specifically for people who need a structured support system to achieve early recovery from addiction. The Center is located on the campus of Roger Williams Medical Center in a building adjacent to the hospital at 877 Chalkstone Avenue in Providence.

The Department of Outpatient Addiction Medicine, currently located on the first floor of the main building at Roger Williams Medical Center, has also moved into this space.

The new Center is staffed by a multi-disciplinary treatment team including physicians, nurses, and therapists, and will be led by **ALEX ETIENNE, MD**, and **VINCENT MARCACCIO, MD**, both of whom are certified Suboxone providers. The program is directed by Liz Cantor, PhD, and will offer same day appointments for outpatient evaluation/intake for co-occurring disorders and/or co-morbid behavioral health

and medical conditions, short- and long-term counseling, individual counseling, Suboxone treatment from induction phase to maintenance, a Partial Hospital Program (PHP) and an Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP).

"Opiate addiction is a national and local epidemic and, since CharterCARE is a leading provider of behavioral health services, it is a natural extension of our program to create an outpatient center that offers services to this complex population," said Dr. Cantor. "Additional supports and treatment toward sustaining their recovery are important at this critical stage." She added that CharterCARE is working closely with the state of Rhode Island to become a center of excellence in Suboxone outpatient treatment.

To make a referral or appointment, call 401-456-2362. For more information about the program, contact Dr. Liz Cantor, Director of Behavioral Health Outpatient Services, at 401-318-2452 or at [Elizabeth.cantor@chartercare.org](mailto:Elizabeth.cantor@chartercare.org) ❖