

Polytrauma ~ A New Generation of Health Care

With a new generation of veterans come new challenges. The Global War on Terror has brought a renewed sense of mission as



young men and women with war-related wounds and traumatic brain injuries seek VA for care.

More than half of all combat-related injuries sustained by American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan are the result of explosive weapons.

Improvements in body armor and surgical stabilization on the front lines of combat are making it possible for more individuals to survive these types of injuries, consequently, more soldiers are returning from war zones with polytrauma.

What is Polytrauma?

Multiple complex injuries to physical regions or organs systems, one of which may be life threatening, resulting in physical, cognitive, neuromuscular, psychological or psychosocial impairments and functional disability. Common injuries in blast-related polytrauma include open wounds, traumatic amputations, injuries to the brain, spinal cord, eye, musculoskeletal system as well as psychiatric problems.

Approach to Treatment

VA North Texas Health Care System is the designated Polytrauma Network Site for VISN 17, and the Polytrauma Team at Dallas VA Medical Center provides outpatient services using an interdisciplinary team consisting of physicians, nurse care manager, blind rehabilitation specialist, physical therapists, occupational therapist, speech language pathologist, recreational therapist, neuropsychologists, social workers,

prosthetist, and other disciplines, with access to the full range of medical and support services within the hospital, including Neuro Rehabilitation, Cognitive Rehabilitation, state-of-the-art Prosthetics, Visual Rehabilitation, Psychological Services, On going Case Management Services, Psychosocial Services, Physical Rehabilitation, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Recreational Therapy.



Resources are also available to family members, including stress counselors, chaplain services, nursing, and social work.

For more information

Social Work Case Manager

214 857-0360.

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

After hours call 1 800 677-8289