

LGBT Veteran Resources

American Veterans for Equal Rights

<http://aver.us/> or 718-849-5665

LGBT veteran care:

<http://www.patientcare.va.gov/LGBT/index.asp>

Transgender American Veterans Association:

<http://transveteran.org/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<https://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/>

Charleston Area Transgender Support Group:

Second Saturday of each month from 7-9 p.m.

Email: info@ChasAreaTSupport.org for more information

Alliance For Full Acceptance:

<https://www.affa-sc.org>

Charleston Pride:

<https://www.charlestonpride.org>

Charleston Black Pride (for LGBT people of color):

<https://www.charlestonblackpride.org>

We are Family (for LGBT youth up to age 24):

<https://www.wearefamilycharleston.org>

T-Time Transgender Support (Myrtle Beach):

<https://www.t-timemyrtlebeach.org>

Crisis resources:

Veterans Crisis Line:

1-800-273-8255 press 1

SAGE National LGBT Elder Hotline:

877-360-5428

Trans Lifeline:

877-565-8860

Crisis Text Line:

text HOME to 741741

The Trevor Project:

1-866-488-7386 or text START to 678678



For questions about specific programming or to address LGBT related health care issues, please contact:

**LGBT Veteran Care Coordinator or
LGBT Mental Health Point of Contact**
(843) 214-7030

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center

109 Bee Street, Charleston, SC 29401
1-888-878-6884 | www.charleston.va.gov



Information for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Veterans

VA welcomes all LGBT Veterans to its facilities to receive high quality, respectful care. VHA personalizes health care to the unique needs of LGBT Veterans and develops and delivers training to VHA staff on LGBT health care.




VA


Ralph H. Johnson
VA Medical Center

VA's Commitment

VA is committed to ensure that all Veterans are treated with honor, dignity and respect. The Ralph H. Johnson VAMC is committed to providing top-quality, culturally competent, patient-centered care to all Veterans, including LGBT and questioning Veterans.



Your right to speak up about discrimination or harassment based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity is protected under VA policy.



The United States is home to an estimated one million LGBT service members and Veterans, with an estimated 65,000 serving on active duty.

It is estimated that 134,000 Veterans identify as Transgender, with more than 15,000 trans people estimated to be serving on active duty.

LGBT people have a long history of serving the US military with honor and distinction and have also made notable contributions to LGBT communities at large.



Some Services VA Offers

The VA provides our LGBT Veterans access to high quality physical and mental health services, including:

- ✓ Medical and specialty care (Endocrinology)
- ✓ Individual, family and couples counseling
- ✓ Hormone Replacement therapy
- ✓ Preoperative Evaluation, medically necessary post-operative and long-term care following gender confirmation surgery
- ✓ Voice coaching
- ✓ Women's health services
- ✓ Fertility services including Cryopreservation and Intrauterine insemination (IUI)
- ✓ Prosthetic devices (i.e. wigs, packers, STP devices, gaffs, chest binders, surgical compression vests, breast forms, dilators)

FAQs

I have not “come out” as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender yet. Am I still welcome to use these services?

Yes! We welcome Veterans who are at any stage of the coming out process and those who are already out.

If I “come out” to my provider, will my benefits be taken away?

No, if you come out any VA provider, you will not risk losing any benefits.

Am I able to use the bathroom that correlates to the gender that I identify with at the VA?

Yes. Per national VHA Directive 2013-003 issued in 2013, transgender people can use any bathroom they feel fits their gender identity.

- ✓ Assist in name/gender change in VA EMR
- ✓ PTSD treatment
- ✓ Addiction and recovery
- ✓ Treatment for sexual trauma
- ✓ Suicide prevention
- ✓ Weight management programs
- ✓ My HealtheVet website
- ✓ Prescription refills
- ✓ LGBT Charleston Secure Message platform through MyHealtheVet for confidential access for medical and mental health questions
- ✓ PrEP and PEP prophylaxis
- ✓ Will always refer to veterans by preferred name and self-identified gender

What are the current policies for LGBT vets?

VHA Directive 1340: Health Care for Veterans who Identify as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual: This policy states that any attempts (formal or informal) by VHA staff to convert or change a Veteran's sexual orientation are prohibited.

VHA Directive 1341: Providing Health Care for Transgender and Intersex Veterans. This is VA policy on the transgender care offered in VA facilities. This policy includes medically necessary care, such as hormone therapy, mental health care, preoperative evaluation, and post-operative and long-term care following gender confirming surgery. Gender confirming surgery cannot be performed or funded by VA.