

## Navigating the VA

### VA Manchester Healthcare System

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Presented by:

**Kevin Forrest**

Medical Center Director

Event:

**12th Annual Seacoast Veterans  
Conference**

Date:

**September 21, 2024**



# Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Choose VA Manchester**
- **Facility Updates**
- **Health Care Services**
- **VA Policy Updates**
- **Upcoming Events**
- **Stay Connected**



# Choose VA Manchester

## Main Campus



## Manchester VA Wellness Center



# Choose VA Manchester

## Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs)

Conway



Portsmouth



Somersworth



Tilton



# Facility Updates

- **Looking at today and in the future ...**
  - Women Veterans Health Clinic – Fall 2025
  - Specialty Care Building – Fall 2026  
(Optometry and Audiology Clinics)
  - Second Floor Dental and Clinical Space Renovations – In development, 2026
  - Fifth Floor Construction – In development, 2027  
(Renovate clinical spaces and addition of simulation lab)
  - Sixth Floor Construction – In development, 2028  
(Renovate clinical and administrative spaces)
  - To keep updated on our Master Plan that follows, go to our website at: <https://www.va.gov/Manchester-health-care> click on 'About Us' section





# Health Care Services

- Facility Updates and Appointment Locations
- Improved Communications – Change in Provider Letters
- Billing and Insurance Copayments
- Beneficiary Travel Program



# VA Policy Updates – COMPACT Act

- **September is Suicide Prevention Month**
  - The **Veterans' Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care and Treatment Act** or **COMPACT Act** took effect Jan. 17, 2023, ensuring eligible Veterans in acute suicidal crisis receive emergent suicide care in a VA or non-VA facility.

Also, remember the Veterans Crisis Line is also available 24/7

- Veterans Crisis Line has a new, easy-to-remember number. Dial **988** then Press 1, effective July 16, 2022.
  - Chat: [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)
  - Text: 838255



# VA Policy Updates – PACT Act

- Under Section 103 of the PACT Act, all toxic-exposed Veterans were supposed to become eligible for VA care in increments.
  - VA eliminated the phased-in approach meaning that three new cohorts of Veterans are now eligible to enroll in VA health care as of March 5, 2024.
  - Veterans must first meet the minimum active-duty service and discharge requirements to qualify for VA health care under PACT Act authorities.





# VA Policy Updates – PACT Act

## VA Manchester's Outreach Coordinator

Contact: **Michael Bichrest**

Telephone: **(603) 203-8391**

Email: **Michael.Bichrest@va.gov**

or

Learn more and apply by visiting

[www.va.gov/PACT](http://www.va.gov/PACT)

or call 1-800-MY-VA 411



**VA**



# VA Policy Updates – SERVICE Act

- The **Supporting Expanded Review for Veterans in Combat Environments Act** or **SERVICE Act** is named in honor of Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas, a Marine Veteran and public health professional.
  - Dr. Thomas was deployed to Iraq in 2005, where she was exposed daily to a burn pit, and in 2018, was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer. Dr. Hendricks Thomas passed away on April 5, 2022, at the age of 42.
  - If you are a Veteran who served in an area where you may have had toxic exposures such as open burn pits, you are eligible for a breast cancer risk assessment to determine if a mammogram is right for you.



# VA Manchester Women Veterans Program

VA Manchester is currently seeking nominations for naming the new Women Veterans Health Clinic.



Scan the QR code to access the online survey

If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to reach us by phone at (603) 624-4366 ext. 5930, Women Veterans Health Clinic, or by email at [VAMCMANPAO@va.gov](mailto:VAMCMANPAO@va.gov), Public Affairs Office.



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

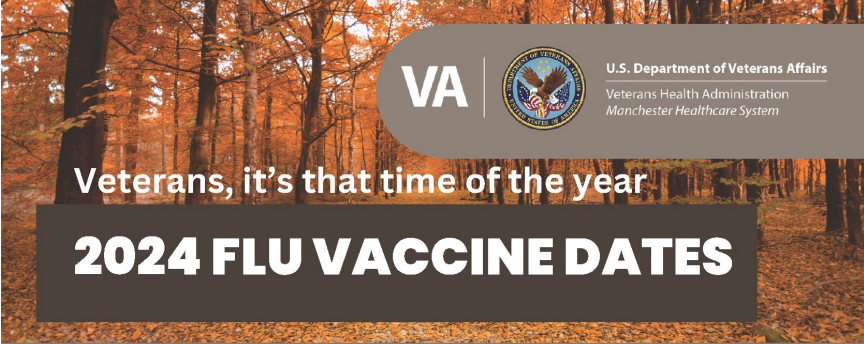
Veterans Health Administration  
Manchester Healthcare System


- **Help us name our expanded Women Veterans Health Clinic**
  - Female Veteran
  - Connection to health care or worked in health care
  - Tie to New Hampshire
  - Check out our social media pages or scan the QR code to enter your nominee
  - Nomination period opened on August 1 and runs through Sept. 30, 2024.

VA



# VA Manchester Upcoming Events



**VA**  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Manchester Healthcare System

Veterans, it's that time of the year


## 2024 FLU VACCINE DATES

**Manchester VA Medical Center Flu Clinic Dates**  
Where: 718 Smyth Road, Manchester, NH 03104

- **Drive-thru Clinics** - Open in September  
Wednesdays, 8 a.m. to Noon on 09/25, 10/2, 10/09, and 10/16  
Building 7, Manchester VAMC
- **Walk-in Clinics** - Thursday, 09/19 from 8 a.m. to Noon  
Mountain Entrance, Manchester VAMC
- **Walk-in Clinic** - Thursday, 10/17 from 8 a.m. to Noon  
Mountain Entrance, Manchester VAMC
- **Weekend Clinic** - Saturday, 09/21 from 8 a.m. to Noon  
Drive-thru, Building 7, Manchester VAMC

**Conway, Portsmouth, Somersworth & Tilton  
Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs)**

- **Flu Vaccine Appointment Clinics** -  
Friday, 09/20 and Wednesday, 10/30 from Noon to 3 p.m.
- To schedule your designated time slot at whichever CBOC  
you prefer, call (603) 624-4366, ext. 3199.





# VA Manchester Upcoming Events



**VA**



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Manchester Healthcare System

Join us for a

## Veteran Job and Information Fair

October 2, 2024

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

located at

**Manchester VA Medical Center**  
First Floor  
Training and Education Room  
**718 Smyth Road**  
**Manchester, NH 03104**

**Employers on site:**

- Boston Medical Center
- Dartmouth Health
- Job Corps
- Naval Shipyard
- NH Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Operation Able
- Randstad
- VA Manchester Healthcare System
- VBA Boston, Manchester, WRJ Regional Offices

**VA**





# VA Manchester Upcoming Events

## Manchester VA Medical Center

718 Smyth Road  
Manchester, NH 03104

### Date:

Saturday

October 26, 2024

### Time:

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Location:

Mountain Entrance



Too often, unused prescription drugs find their way into the wrong hands. That's dangerous and often tragic. That's why it was great to see thousands of folks from across the country clean out their medicine cabinets and turn in - safely and anonymously - a record amount of prescription drugs.



[Take Back Day \(dea.gov\)](https://dea.gov)



# Stay Connected With Us

Follow us on social media:

Facebook:

[@ManchesterVAMC](#)

X (formerly known as Twitter):

[@VAManchester](#)

Website:

[www.va.gov/Manchester-health-care](http://www.va.gov/Manchester-health-care)

The screenshot shows the VA Manchester health care website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the VA logo, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs name, and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, there are links for "VA Benefits and Health Care", "About VA", and "Find a VA Location". The main content area features a large image of the VA Manchester health care building and the heading "VA Manchester health care". To the left of the main content, there is a sidebar with links for "SERVICES AND LOCATIONS", "NEWS AND EVENTS", and "ABOUT VA MANCHESTER". Below the main image, there are three buttons: "Make an appointment", "View all health services", and "Register for care".

The Facebook post is from the Manchester VA Medical Center, dated August 23 at 11:54 AM. The text of the post reads: "VA Manchester #Veterans 'Hit the Beach' on this beautiful day! The surf 🌊 is awesome and we are with American Legion Post 35 and Wounded Warrior Project, NE Disabled Sports. It is the 16th annual Hit the Beach at Hampton Beach, NH. More photos soon, but right now the Rec Therapy and Whole Health teams want us to catch a wave and do some beach yoga! We are 'stoked' say these surfers!". Below the text are four photographs showing veterans and staff participating in beach activities. The top-left photo shows a man with a long white beard and a black wetsuit standing on the beach with a yellow surfboard. The top-right photo shows a group of people on the beach, some with surfboards. The bottom-left photo shows a group of people sitting on the beach, some in wheelchairs. The bottom-right photo shows a person in a wheelchair on the beach with a yellow surfboard and a "+6" icon indicating more photos.



# Thank you for your military service!

For more details on Veterans' health care we offer, we have additional guest speakers during the conference and resource tables through the area on different programs and services to answer questions and help.

