



# Prosthetic & Sensory Aids Support to Women Veterans

## Advisory Council Women Veterans

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# Prosthetic & Sensory Aids Service (PSAS)



**Our mission is to provide specialized quality patient care by furnishing properly prescribed prosthetic equipment, sensory aids and devices in the most economical and timely manner in accordance with authorizing laws, regulations and policies**

*VHA Handbook 1173 establishes uniform and consistent national policy and procedures for the provision of prosthetic services.*

# Prosthetic & Sensory Aids Service (PSAS)



- PSAS addresses the total process associated with replacing, supporting, and/or complementing human anatomy and/or function impaired or destroyed as a result of trauma or disease
- We provide technologies necessary due to loss or permanent loss of use of body part or function
- We provide comprehensive support for optimal health and independence



# “Prosthetics” is artificial limbs . . .



I-hand



Pocket  
computer



. . . and a whole lot more

# Comprehensive Assistive Technology Interventions



- Wheeled Mobility/Seating
- Vehicle Modification
- Aids for the Blind
- Computer Access
- Environmental Control
- Self Care Equipment
- Adaptive Sports Equipment
- Home Telehealth
- Speech Generating Devices
- Cognitive Prosthetic Devices



# Wheeled Mobility

PSAS provides state of the art wheeled mobility devices to meet individual needs

- Manual Wheelchairs, power wheelchairs, scooters, wheelchairs with specialty functions
- Seating systems (cushion, back support, accessories) further customize the device
- Spare manual wheelchairs provided for emergency and/or alternative environments





# Home Telehealth

- PSAS collaborates with Care Coordination Home Telehealth (CCHT) Program Office
- Telehealth equipment provided to Veterans with chronic conditions in urban and rural areas
- FY 2008 Telehealth devices  
– \$16,830,964





# Electric Stimulation Orthotic Devices

VA also provides the latest neuromuscular stimulation technologies that are sometimes advantageous over conventional orthotic devices (braces & splints)



Photos from Bioness, Inc.





# Electronic Cognitive Devices (ECD)

- Electronic Products
  - Universal Design
- Compensate for Impaired Cognition
  - Memory
  - Attention
  - Path-finding
  - Organization
- Support for Daily Living Activities



Pocket Computer



# ECD Examples



Handheld  
Global  
Positioning  
System  
(GPS)



DataLink  
Watch



Personal  
Digital  
Assistant  
(PDA)

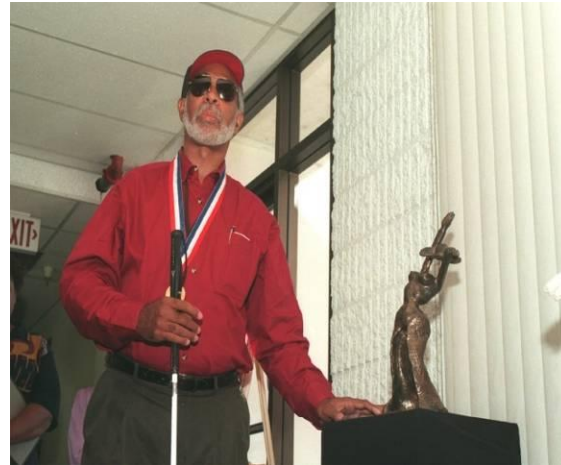
Talking GPS



# Adaptive Sports & Recreation



# Many Generations of Veterans Supported





# Many Populations Served by PSAS

## Veterans with needs related to . . .

- Amputation
- Spinal Cord Injury/Disorders
- Polytrauma
- Visual Impairment
- Podiatric Care
- Cardio-Pulmonary Disease
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Speech/Language deficit
- Neurologic Dysfunction
- Women's Health
- Muscular Dysfunction
- Hearing Impairment
- Orthopedic Care
- Diabetes/Metabolic Disease
- Peripheral Vascular Disease
- Cerebral Vascular Disease
- Geriatric Impairments



# A GROWING POPULATION WITH UNIQUE NEEDS and a CHANGING FOCUS

## WOMEN VETERANS

# Meeting the PSAS Needs of Women Veterans



- 1.8 million female Veterans (FY 08)
- 14% of the active forces are females and 11% are combat forces, which is expected to increase in the future
- Half of this population are of childbearing age
- Goal is to be positioned and prepared for the anticipated growth in the number of female Veterans needing VA

# Prosthetics Women's Workgroup (PWW)



- The purpose of the Prosthetics Women's Workgroup (PWW) is to enhance the care of female Veterans in regards to technology, research, training, repair and replacement of prosthetic appliances
- This is a subgroup of the Prosthetics Clinical Management Program (PCMP)





# PWW Goals

- Ensure uniformity in the provision of prosthetic appliances across the VA
- Eliminate availability concerns
- Provide medically necessary prosthetic devices and medical aids to female Veterans in accordance with federal rules and regulations governing P&SAS programs
- Advocate new legislations, changes to existing legislations



# Goals

- Eliminate barriers to prosthetics care experienced by women Veterans
- Explore contracting and procurement actions that provide devices made specifically for women
- Identify emerging technology for women and propose ideas for research and development
- Change culture and perception of women Veterans through education and information dissemination



# PWW Membership

- Experts from various backgrounds
- Most members are Veterans

• Mary Maniscalco-Theberge	Deputy Medical Inspector	VACO OMI
• Patty Hayes	Women's Health Consultant	VACO
• Joy Illem	DAV	Washington, DC
• Pam Westbrook	VPR	LA, CA
• Tracey Swope	Chief, PSAS	Durham NC
• Deborah Page	Prosthetics Representative	Nashville, TN
• Bernice Stoutmire	VISN Prosthetics Rep intern	Durham, NC
• Debra Thilgen	Local Women's Coordinator	Minneapolis, MN
• Desmarie DeCuir	Local Women's Coordinator	Memphis, TN
• BJ Randolph	Deputy Chief Consultant, PSAS	VACO (113)
• Onunna Anyiwo	Regional Program Manager, PSAS	VACO (113)

# Approved Unique Women Medical Devices



PROSTHETIC DEVICE	ISSUING CRITERIA	MINIMUM QTY	REPLACEMENT FREQUENCY
Breast Pumps	Included in Breast Pump Document	1	As Needed
Nursing Bras	Actively Lactating	3	Annually While Actively Lactating
Mastectomy Bras	Evidence of Mastectomy	3	Annually
Breast Prosthesis	Evidence of Mastectomy	1	Every two years
Bathing Suit (Post-Mastectomy)	Evidence of Participation in a Sports Activity related Rehab; needs to be sent on 2641 to VACO for review.	1	As Needed
Camisoles (Post-Mastectomy)	Immediate Post-Operative Period After Mastectomy	2	N/A
Wigs	Female Hair loss secondary due to disease, medical treatment or trauma	1	As Needed
Pessaries	Vaginal/Bladder Prolapse	Available thru Pharmacy	Determined by Pharmacy
IUD	Family Planning, Contraception	1	Refer to Package Insert
Pregnancy abdominal binder (Maternity Supports)	Lower Back Pain	1	One per Pregnancy
Implanon	Family Planning, Contraception	1	n/a
Eye glass frames designed for women	Field facilities and VISN's are strongly encouraged to consider a wider variety of frame and case selections for Women Veterans	N/a	N/A



# Short & Long Term Goals

- Communication
  - Brochures
  - Flyers
  - Banners
- Standardization
  - Clinical Practice Recommendations
  - Contracts for unique items
- Continue conducting field Surveys
- SME's for reviewing and approving new devices
- Evaluation of new and emerging technology



# Specialized Equipment Requests

- Authority for Issuance of Special and/or Experimental Appliances (Fully Automated 10-2641 Process)
- Allows consideration for unique equipment, technology, adaptation, or special circumstances:
  - Mobility equipment
  - Computers & electronic technologies
  - Special home modifications
  - New and emerging technologies
  - Adaptive sports equipment
  - Other



# Equipment Tracking



- National Prosthetic Patient Database (NPPD)
  - Comprehensive equipment tracking
  - All devices & supplies for unique Veterans
  - Allows local, regional, national tracking
  - Individual
  - Products
  - Compliance with Contracts
  - Cost Trends
  - Research



# Is Adequate Funding Available?

- Specific Purpose funds ensure timely delivery of prosthetic appliances and services
- Funds are centralized to VACO
- Veterans will not be denied a prosthetic appliance due to lack of funds





# VBA Benefits Available to Eligible Women Veterans

- Clothing Allowance (VBA benefit)
  - Supplements the cost for damage done by service connected appliances and medications
  - \$716.00 per year (Public Law 110-324)
  - Rate increases yearly
- Automobile Adaptive Equipment
  - VBA benefit administered by PSAS
  - Adaptive equipment – power steering, brakes, etc.
  - Automobile adaptations – hand controls, digital steering, etc.



# Home Improvement & Structural Alteration (HISA)

	FY08		FY09Q3	
	# Grants	Costs	# Grants	Costs
Service Connected (SC):	1,615	\$5,171,594	1,380	\$4,576,387
Non Service Connected (NSC):	677	\$841,796	522	\$643,448

**Benefit SC = \$4,100, NSC = \$1,200**





# The Key to Success - PSAS Team

- Central Office
  - Chief Consultant
  - Deputy Chief Consultant
  - Chief Operating Officer
  - Data Management Team
  - National Program Director, Orthotic & Prosthetic (O&P) Services
  - Prosthetic Clinical Coordinator
  - Program Analysts
- Field
  - VISN Prosthetic Representatives
  - Facility Prosthetic Chiefs and Representatives
  - Data Analysts
  - O&P Clinical Staff
  - Purchasing Agents
  - Inventory Managers



# Thank You!

**[www.prosthetics.va.gov](http://www.prosthetics.va.gov)**

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