

VETERANS UPDATE

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VA ON PATH TO CURE VETS OF HEP C



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced it is on track to eliminate the hepatitis C virus in as few as two months, in all Veterans who can be treated.

As of March 3, nearly 116,000 Veterans started all-oral hepatitis C medications in VA, of which 96,654 Veterans completed treatment and have been cured.

“As the largest single provider of HCV care in the U.S., this is terrific news because it means we are within striking range of eliminating hepatitis C among Veterans under the care of the Veterans Health Administration,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie.

HCV infection can lead to advanced liver disease, liver cancer

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 26, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Operation Stand Down R.I. Spring into Health Resource Fair, HPACT Clinic, Providence VAMC campus. Featuring information and resources for homeless and at-risk Veterans. Lunch provided!

May 16, 1 - 2:30 p.m., Preventing Veteran Suicide and Instilling Hope, 5th floor auditorium, main hospital building, Providence VAMC. VA Research Week 2019 Keynote Speaker, Dr. Jennifer Primack.

and death. Treatment of HCV can greatly improve survival, but prior to 2014, HCV treatment required weekly injections for up to a year, with low cure rates and significant side effects.

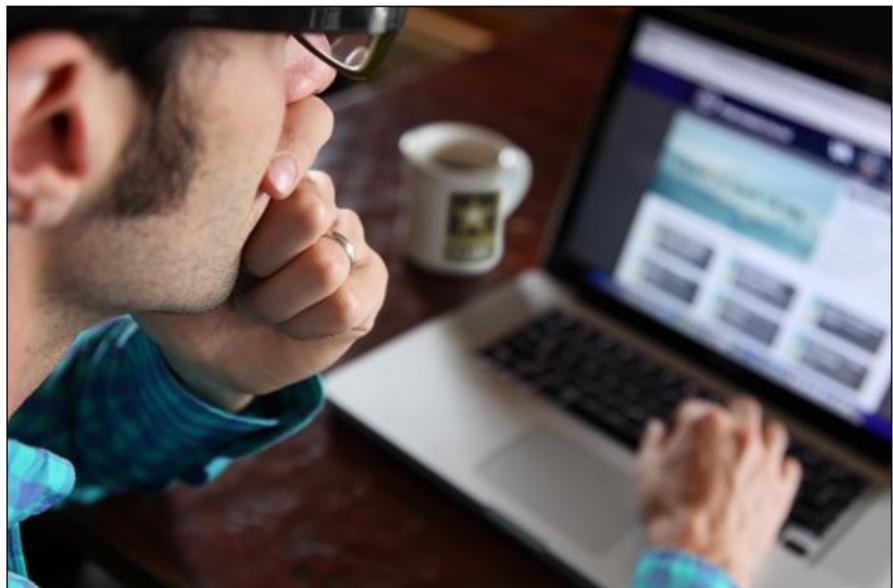
In 2014, highly effective, less toxic, all-oral, direct-acting antivirals became available.

MY HEALTHVET — SECURE, CONVENIENT ACCESS

Playing phone tag or making a special trip to access your health records can be a chore.

There's a better way! Veterans enrolled in VA health care can schedule appointments, refill prescriptions, view their health records, and even send secure messages to their health care team using My HealthVet. All you need is a computer with Internet access, and some features are available by mobile app.

To register, visit <https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/user-registration>.



PVAMC RESEARCHER TO BE HONORED



Dr. Sharon Rounds, a Providence VA Medical Center physician and researcher, and professor of medicine and associate dean for clinical affairs at Brown University, meets with Veteran patient Ronald Bennett at the Providence VA Medical Center Nov. 1, 2018. Rounds will receive the 2019 Breathing for Life Award during the Eleventh Annual ATS Foundation Research Program Benefit Saturday, May 18, in Dallas, Texas. (Photo courtesy of the American Thoracic Society)

By the American Thoracic Society Foundation

A physician and researcher at the Providence VA Medical Center will receive the 2019 Breathing for Life Award — the highest honor given by the American Thoracic Society Foundation to a member for philanthropy — during the 11th Annual ATS Foundation Research Program Benefit, May 18, in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Sharon I. S. Rounds championed the formation of the ATS Foundation as president from 2004 to 2005. She served on the Foundation's board from 2012 to 2018, and has also been one of its most generous supporters.

A distinguished researcher on pulmonary circulation — who will also receive the ATS Robert F. Grover Prize for outstanding contributions to the study of the effects of hypoxia and high altitude on pulmonary circulation on May 20 — Rounds supported the Foundation's efforts to advance the careers of promising young investigators, chairing the ATS committee that selects

grant recipients.

At the Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Rounds is a professor of medicine and of pathology and laboratory medicine, and is associate dean for clinical affairs. From 2006 to 2015, she was chief of the medical service at the Providence VAMC.

As an educator, Rounds has been recognized more than a dozen times for her excellence in teaching and mentorship, including receiving the Elizabeth A. Rich, MD, Award from the ATS for a woman who has made significant contributions in the fields of pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine.

Throughout her career, she has pressed for more opportunities for women and minorities. Along with doctors Alvin Thomas and Estelle Gauda, she created the ATS Minority Trainee Development Scholarships program two decades ago. At Brown, for many years, she was the principal investigator of a National Institutes of Health-funded program to increase diversity in health-related research.



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"This is the history of the United States of America: we're only as good as our diversity," Rounds said. "It makes us better health care professionals, and it makes our research more relevant to the needs of the community."

At a time of life when many consider retiring, Rounds remains active as a mentor, researcher and clinician, and in the ATS, as well.

"I view my time contribution to ATS, not as work, but as fun," said Rounds. "The ATS is interesting and engaging, and keeps my mind off things that I might find boring."