



VA Medical Center  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Martinsburg VAMC averts closing inpatient mental health wing**

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. – The Martinsburg VA Medical Center (VAMC) has averted closing the inpatient psychiatric unit by matching the number of beds with the ability to provide on call psychiatric coverage.

“We are pleased to announce that after re-evaluation of the current staffing levels and the great teamwork and cooperation of our staff, coupled with our strong desire to maintain access to psychiatric inpatient care at the Martinsburg VA Medical Center, a solution for the care of Veterans has been identified,” said Timothy Cooke, medical center director. “We will be able to keep eight beds open on the inpatient psychiatric unit.” In order to accomplish this, the unit will be on partial diversion after normal working hours and weekends.

During diversion, patients needing inpatient psychiatric care will be diverted to appropriate care medical centers within the VA Capitol Health Care Network Veterans may be placed in non-VA or Department of Defense facilities that provide the most appropriate level of care required.

The medical center plan has been communicated with the VISN leadership, community hospital unit directors, and our union partners for notification, planning, and support purposes.

The medical center leadership team continues to aggressively recruit and interview potential psychiatry candidates. The provision of safety and the highest quality of care is our foremost concern for the Veterans.

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## 2-2-2 Avert Closing

“In the coming months we anticipate additional staff joining Team Martinsburg to provide the care our Veterans deserve,” Cooke said.

*The Martinsburg VA Medical Center mission is to honor America’s Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. Located in West Virginia, the medical center offers a comprehensive range of services, including internal medicine, ambulatory surgery, audiology and speech pathology, dental, nursing home, nutrition, podiatry, prosthetics, women’s health, mental health, and rehabilitation medicine. With a service area of nearly 125,000 Veterans in West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, the medical center operates seven Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC). Six of the clinics are VA-staffed and are located in Cumberland, Hagerstown and Fort Detrick, Md., Franklin and Petersburg, W.Va., and Stephens City, Va. One of the clinics is contracted and is located in and Harrisonburg, Va.*