



# UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA GERONTOLOGY

Do You Have The Cour**AGE** to Care?

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration:  
Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System

## The Geriatric Team at the Omaha VA

The Geriatric Team at the Omaha VA aspires to improve the quality of life for both the patient and the family. We help the patient clarify personal health care goals and identify areas needing support for memory and other areas related to aging. Patients are referred to the program by healthcare providers in primary care, mental health, and other specialties.

**Assessment** At the initial appointment, a team made up of a Geriatrician (physician who specialized in elders), a psychologist, a Social Worker, an RN, and a pharmacist carefully assesses the patient. We encourage family members or a close personal friend to accompany the patient to this thorough appointment, as collateral social and historical information can be very helpful. Following the clinic visit, lab work or imaging may be ordered.

**Collaboration** Prior to the follow-up appointment, the interdisciplinary team collaborates to develop a care plan, and a follow-up clinic visit is scheduled to discuss the assessment's results and recommendations, and to provide education for the patient and family. The RN contacts the veteran/family by telephone a few weeks later to discuss any concerns relating to the care plan and recommendations that may have developed. Patients are then referred back to their primary care provider, although the geriatric team remains available to the veteran should needs arise.

The heart of our program is to provide medical expertise and assistance to patients (and families) as they deal with the challenges of aging. It is our Geriatrics Team's honor to be able to care for our nation's veterans.

Contact the VA Omaha Geriatrics Department at 402-995-4971.

