

Skilled care patients continue to regain strength and independence throughout their stay, all preparing them for their return home. Veterans Memorial Hospital encourages patients to choose skilled care for a fuller recovery.

THE CHOICE IS UP TO YOU.

For more information, please contact
Becky Welper, RN, Discharge Planner:

563-568-3411

Jim Christensen of Lansing spent three weeks on skilled care lying flat on his back, recovering from surgery to repair the torn quadriceps in both of his legs.

“The skilled nursing care I received while on swing bed at the hospital was just excellent. They waited on me hand and foot. It took three of them to get me out of bed every time I needed to get up. I couldn't have done it at home or anywhere but there.”



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SKILLED CARE

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40 First Street SE + Waukon, IA 52172

563.568.3411

*“Exceptional Care by
Exceptional People”*

Dale Kiesau of Waukon remained on skilled care following orthopedic surgery at Veterans Memorial after a life threatening accident which severely broke his right leg.

“Veterans Memorial Hospital is really the place to come for care. It feels just like being at home, so close and convenient. Plus everyone on staff is just like a big family, and all with a great sense of humor. They really know their job. If I couldn’t have come here, I don’t think I would have ever walked again.”



SKILLED CARE is readily available to most patients who require rehabilitation services following a stay of three days or more in any hospital. The patient can be very pro-active in choosing skilled care and the facility. Talk to your medical provider about the benefits of skilled care and to find out if you qualify. Skilled care is very beneficial for patients recovering from an illness, surgery, or an accident. The “swing” in care from acute to skilled level allows the patient to remain in the hospital to receive assistance from the nursing staff 24 hours a day, making it a very helpful option to the caregiver of the patient. In skilled care, medications are given, pain is controlled, healthy meals are provided, and most importantly, the patient qualifies for more rehabilitation than if they were discharged directly to their home.

ALL SKILLED LEVEL

patients are taken to their therapy sessions twice per day. If they are discharged to their home, they only receive therapy three times a week, plus the caregiver has to load them up and bring them in for the therapy each time.

Blanca Schroder of Postville recovered from a serious car accident while on skilled care at Veterans Memorial Hospital.

“The care I received at the hospital was amazing. As I was experiencing much pain, the nurses encouraged me all the way, telling me tomorrow will be better than today. With all of the love they give, you feel so much care. I was so worried about how I was going to manage at home, then the most wonderful thing happened. My Occupational Therapist met me at my home a few days before my discharge from the hospital, to go over



everything right within my house and taught me how to stay safe. She helped me with everything I needed to be in my own home alone, and how to adjust and put into practice all they taught at the hospital. I was so thankful and so grateful for all of them.”

Our rehabilitation department sees the skilled level patients accelerate in their recovery faster than the patients who elect to go home right away. The extra rehabilitation helps them be much more independent when they return to their own home.

PATIENTS

choosing a larger facility for surgery are commonly discharged home approximately 3-5 days following their surgery, which may be too soon for patients who don’t feel strong enough to care for themselves. By asking that larger medical facility to coordinate a transfer back to Veterans Memorial Hospital, the patient can take advantage of a longer hospital stay with in-house rehabilitation easily accessible. Becky Welper, R.N., Discharge Planner, can help make the arrangements for patients in a larger facility to be transferred back here, closer to home for their skilled care.

Jim Driscoll and wife Sallie of Harpers Ferry are pictured in the Cardiac Rehab Unit at Veterans Memorial Hospital. Jim was transferred from Mayo Memorial Hospital where he recovered from open heart surgery on skilled care.



“We have seen so many older adults try to care for their family members themselves at home following a major surgery and they themselves become completely exhausted. We knew that Jim would receive better care at a facility on a skilled level of care that could offer daily rehabilitation and nursing care, with emergency services available if needed. But we had to specifically ask to be transferred to Veterans Memorial from Rochester. We didn’t realize we should have researched and lined some of the transfer up ahead of time so we didn’t have this problem. We hope we can encourage others to be more pro-active and take charge with their care to find a skilled medical facility for a quicker recovery.”