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#### **(S.D.)-Veterans Invited to Learn More About Telehealth Services**

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 03/11/2013 10:38 AM

(BLACK HILLS)-Have you ever wanted to learn about emerging technology that keeps you in contact with your doctor's office without actually being there? Visit VA Black Hills Health Care System's (BHHCS) Hot Springs VA Medical Center, Fort Meade VA Medical Center, and Rapid City Community Based Outpatient Clinic in March and interact with our telehealth mobile cart displays.

Telehealth services aim to improve veterans' access to care by adding health care options in non-traditional locations. One specific telehealth service is home telehealth. Home telehealth is a VA program that uses a special monitor connected to a veteran's home telephone line or a cellular modem. This monitor records and forwards their health reports, such as blood pressure, weight and medications taken, to a trained nurse at VA BHHCS.

"Telehealth is especially important for veterans who live in rural areas, like many who get care through VA BHHCS," said Lisa Frasier, telehealth coordinator. "Home telehealth allows the veteran to participate in health care directly from their home, and avoid a trip to the clinic."

Telehealth services are becoming more common throughout the health care industry, and VA continues to find new ways to use technology to increase access to care. "We want to familiarize veterans with the equipment and methods so they are comfortable using them to help achieve their health goals," Frasier said.

During the month of March, veterans can see some of the telehealth tools up close at VA BHHCS facilities. Veterans can also meet clinic staff involved in the telehealth program to ask questions and learn more about the services offered. Mobile carts and telehealth equipment will be set up in the following locations:

Main lobby at the Fort Meade VA Medical Center – Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00-10:00 a.m.

Main lobby at the Hot Springs VA Medical Center – Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Telehealth Clinical Technician office, in the Mental Health area, at the Rapid City Community Based Outpatient Clinic – Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30-10:30 a.m.

--VA Black Hills Health Care System