

# Dept. of Veterans Affairs: Introducing TelePRIDE: a health education group for LGBTQ+ veterans

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**Tomah, Wis.** – With over 1 million LGBTQ+ Veterans in the United States, the Tomah VA Medical Center is expanding its local offering of the TelePRIDE program to provide high-quality, comprehensive care to this historically underserved community.

TelePRIDE, a 10-week health care education group for LGBTQ+ Veterans, is now available to all Veterans who receive care within Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 12, which serves Wisconsin, Illinois, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and northwestern Indiana. Tomah VA piloted the program, and it has been expanded to other VISN 12 medical facilities.

“We are excited to offer this new program to LGBTQ+ Veterans,” said Tomah VA Medical Center Director Karen Long, MSN, RN. “This community has experienced disparities in health care, and we are committed to ensuring all our nation’s heroes receive that quality of care they’ve earned”.

TelePRIDE providers are specially trained to facilitate this program in an inclusive and safe environment for any LGBTQ+ Veteran enrolled for care. TelePRIDE is available virtually to all Veterans in VISN 12. The local program at the Tomah VA is also virtual at this time.

“TelePRIDE is a way to honor our promise to provide excellent and equal care to all Veterans,” said VISN 12 Network Director Daniel S. Zomchek, Ph.D., FACHE. “VA

recognizes this program as a best practice, and we are proud to offer it to our VISN 12 Veterans.”

Tomah VA is currently accepting Veterans for the TelePRIDE program. To sign up, please contact Sierra Phillips at 608-372-3971, extension 61761.

### **About Tomah VA Medical Center**

The Tomah VA Medical Center is located on a 174 acre campus in Tomah, Wisconsin, and serves approximately 28,000 veterans in 16 counties in Wisconsin and Minnesota. The Tomah VA has four outpatient clinics located in La Crosse, Owen, Wisconsin Rapids, and Wausau.

The Tomah VA specializes in medicine, mental health, whole health and long-term care. Medicine services include acute inpatient care at Tomah and primary care at all locations. A range of specialty services are provided at Tomah and are being migrated to outpatient clinics through on-site and telehealth. Information about the Tomah VA can be found at [www.va.gov/tomah-health-care](http://www.va.gov/tomah-health-care).