CaringBridge has a signed Memorandum of Agreement with Veterans Health Administration, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, to offer its digital tool to all veterans and their family caregivers.



About Us

CaringBridge is a nonprofit social network that helps people connect with family and friends during health journeys. Our online platform offers simple tools for patients and family caregivers to share health updates and mobilize the support of their communities.

A health journey of any kind—illness, injury, pregnancy complications, chronic medical or behavioral conditions—is difficult to endure alone. It's a vulnerable time that can leave patients and family caregivers feeling isolated when nothing matters more than social and emotional support.

That's how CaringBridge helps. Founder Sona Mehring created a single website in 1997 to support friends going through a complicated pregnancy, The safe and secure online space she made years before the arrival of Facebook, is visited about 300,000 times each day—by kind-hearted people sharing health updates or supporting loved ones.

Contact

Professionals:

To learn more, visit CaringBridge.org/partnerships

For Training or Questions:

Susan Kerber skerber@caringbridge.org 651.789.5349

Veteran Patients & Military Family

Caregivers:

To start a site or learn

more, visit

CaringBridge.org/military

Why Refer CaringBridge?

For people on health journeys, comprehensive emotional, spiritual, and instrumental support is critical. Patients and their families need social support that extends beyond the doctors, nurses, and social workers providing care. Research has linked social support and positivity with reduced stress and improved health outcomes and referrals from professionals inspire the use and impact of CaringBridge.

CaringBridge gives patients and caregivers a place to share news about their health journeys with family and friends. Their communities in return can be connected to provide thoughts and well wishes and other gestures of support instead of asking the individuals on a health journey to repeat the same story over and over again, thus adding to the stress of the situation.

Through CaringBridge, a patient or caregiver can:

- Journal and share health updates
- Identify multiple co-authors to share in communication activities
- Customize privacy settings to control who has access to their site
- Receive well wishes and words of encouragement
- · Coordinate daily instrumental support through the Planner
- Start or link a Personal Fundraiser for medical costs
- · Share photos, videos, and support links

CaringBridge is available via a mobile-friendly website at CaringBridge.org/military and in the Apple and Google Play stores.

Sharing CaringBridge with Patients and Family Caregivers

Your referral can help ensure that no one goes through a health journey alone.

Patients and family caregivers should be focused on healing when they use CaringBridge—not worried about privacy or struggling to use technology. That's why simplicity and privacy are our top priorities. We make it as easy as possible to create a site, share health updates and ask for support, and unlike other social networks, we never sell or share personal information. CaringBridge is for people facing any health condition. Whether you are working with families, facing surgery, a hospitalization, cancer treatment or any other health crisis, we are here for people in need.

If you have a patient or family caregiver needing the social support or care coordination, please encourage them to start a site today at CaringBridge.org/military.

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To see CaringBridge in action, visit <u>CaringBridge.org/how-it-works</u> and to find helpful articles and content on Healing and Caregiving visit CaringBridge.org/Resources.

www.CaringBridge.org/military