VIP VETERAN OVERVIEW OF SERVICES

Veterans In Pain VIP is a 501c3 which empowers Veterans by facilitating Regenerative solutions for chronic pain, by connecting civilian physicians with our country’s heroes, nationwide.

Veterans In Pain VIP Origin Story

<https://youtu.be/pvyXthwPSAQ>

Launched in 2018, VIP is an all-volunteer grass roots organization, which has since treated hundreds of Veterans, with a value of services-rendered at over $4,000,000.

VIP VETERAN OVERVIEW OF WORKFLOW & SERVICES

Please note the following as an overview of the conditions and procedures for which our program facilitates, and guidelines we utilize to ensure a fairly fluid workflow, throughout.

The first step is for the Veteran to apply to our program by submitting our VIP Veteran Application page.

Follow Steps 1-3 below:

📍Step 1 Application <https://veteransinpain.org/application-step-1>

📍Step 2 the Waiver <https://veteransinpain.org/waiver-step-2>

📍Step 3 Intake Meeting. To schedule your personal Intake meeting which will be conducted by phone with our Founder, Micaela Bensko

The Step 3 Intake may also be scheduled here: <https://calendly.com/vetsinpain>

Post-Treatment the Veteran is asked to submit 📍Step 4, the Quality of Life Survey

<https://veteransinpain.org/veteran-post-care-step-4>

Overview of VIP

VIP Facilitates Treatments Primarily for:

•TBI/PTSD

•Joint and Spine Regenerative Solutions

•Systemic Inflammation

•Chronic Pain

•Toxic Exposure

•Diagnostics

Through:

•Regenerative Medicine

•Platelet Rich Plasma

•Bone Marrow Aspirate

•HBOT - Hyperbaric Oxygen Based Solutions

•SGB - Stellate Ganglion Block for PTSD

•Plant-BasedMedicine Solutions

•Peptides

•Intensive IV Ketamine Therapy

and more.

Detailed Info on the most Common Regenerative and Alternative Solutions VIP facilitates:

•VIP conducts group facilitations of qualifying VIP Veterans for pro bono procedures which occur in partnerships with prestigious OrthoBiologic institutions’ symposiums at designated times throughout the year.

•Otherwise all Veteran placements are individually based with a selected VIP Physician match. We will do all we can to match a Veteran as close to home as possible, however at times, travel may be required.

What Determines the Efficacy of a Regenerative Procedure

https://veteransinpain.org/blog/f/what-determines-the-efficacy-of-an-orthobiologic-

protocol

VIP Regenerative Procedure & Chronic Pain Directives

[www.VeteransInPain.org/directives](http://www.VeteransInPain.org/directives)

What is PRP?

<https://youtu.be/4X2bWNCAv-o>

What is BMAC?

<https://veteransinpain.org/blog/f/what-is-bmac>

Sound-Derived PTSD & Stem Cells

<https://youtu.be/KdjZ-tpmtDA>

What is Hyperbaric Therapy?

[https://youtu.be/64QnVM9baeQ](https://veteransinpain.org/blog/f/what-is-bmac)

•VIP facilitates HBO Therapy through various

solution partners around the country from 40-60 day Pro Bono residential treatment.

•VIP Director of Oxygen Therapies, and Founder is Neurologist, Dr Carol Henricks

•VIP facilitates to Veteran-Friendly Discounted HBOT Facilities nationwide such as to the organization Treat Now

www.TreatNow.org

•VIP also personal purchase of in-home soft-shell Hyperbaric chambers

What is Ketamine Therapy?

<https://veteransinpain.org/blog/f/our-veterans-and-ketamine>

•An Interview with VIP Director of Ketamine Therapy, Dr Stephen Reichbach

<https://youtu.be/iuHl_67WQmA>

Ayahuasca and Veterans

<https://youtu.be/qu8ij_LZgmA>

SGB Stellate Ganglion Block for PTSD

•A Veteran’s Story by James Roberg, with Dr James Lynch

<https://veteransinpain.org/blog/f/a-veteran’s-sgb-story>

•VIP is officially partnered with the national network of SGB centers, the Stella Clinic for SGB injections at deeply discounted VIP rates.

•VIP has a division of VIP Physicians throughout the country dedicated solely to providing SGB treatment for individual VIP Veteran-placements.

•VIP is also partnered in an SGB Study conducted by Dr Shounuck Patel in Southern California strictly for PTSD, through which this procedure is pro bono. Veterans must submit this application for verification of candidacy. TBI is a contraindication for this particular study.

“Submit Dr. Shounuck Patel's SGB Program Candidate Form" at: https://form.jotform.com/211816023644045

Dr Patel also provide SGB procedures at a discounted rate through VIP.

•The typical SGB procedure includes more than one SGB procedure over the span of several weeks. So please be aware that there will be a need to revisit your treating physician for a second, third or fourth SGB depending on the severity of your case.

Finances of Joint/Spine Procedures

•The usual / average cost of a joint-specific Regenerative procedure outside of VIP, can be anywhere from $2,500 to $7,000 per joint, depending on region, type of procedure, whether it be PRP, BMAC, or a combination of both, and the complexity of soft tissue damage. Through VIP, these procedures may be pro bono, or include hard costs, which, if any, are approximately at an 80% discount. Although VIP always strives for pro bono procedures, the key to our facilitation is to make these solutions accessible.

The usual BMAC Spine procedures outside of VIP, can begin at $11,000 and up to $60,000 or more, and insurance does not cover regenerative procedures. However, through VIP, accessibility is key to all we do. Our VIP physicians volunteer their services and consultations at no cost to the Veteran, with any potential hard costs averaging also at an 80% discount or more.

However, with spine procedures, the hard costs are usually a bit higher than joint specific which may include an operating room fee (ie: $1600) for sterility purposes and the use of live imaging through a fluoroscope, a nursing assistant (ie: $600) and perhaps lab work.

MRI Imaging:

Prior to any physician-matching and subsequent Consultation scheduling, the Veteran is required to have accessible to them, an updated MRI of each area they wish to have treated which has been  taken within the previous 12 months. With or without contrast is fine. CT Scan is acceptable. However, X-Rays do not show soft tissue damage, so are not acceptable.

The types of procedures we concentrate on are less surgical in nature, and more therapeutic, injectable and soft-tissue related, which is at the core of Regenerative medicine. Inciting the body to regenerate its own soft-tissue damage in the joints and spine.

Therefore, we are not able to address every condition. Certain ailments may be more bone related such as a bone spur pinching a nerve, or a fracture/broken bon. This may need more of a surgical intervention. Which is also why we can never promise to our veterans that they will be approved for a procedure(s), but that we will certainly offer the most comprehensive assessment possible, with the goal of avoiding surgical intervention.

Obtaining Your MRI’s:

For Inside Tips, Go to [www.VeteransInPain.org](http://www.VeteransInPain.org )and click on the link to "MRI 411"

Once you arrive at the MRI facility make sure you let them know you'd like to leave with a CD of the MRI imagery in your hands. You may have to wait a few minutes when you're done, but it will be worth it to have access to your imagery for any potential consultation for which you may be assigned.

For Tele-Health Consultations: For any Tele-health zoom consults, be sure to have uploaded your  MRI imagery to a shareable link ie: DropBox or your MyHealthEVet account so the physician has access to your imagery.

Once your MRI's are completed, text Micaela at 310-990-8389 and we can begin your submission process to a VIP Specialist in your area. If we cannot locate one within the vicinity of your home, please let us know if you are willing to travel by air. We are partnered with a nonprofit which provides pro bono private pilot flights. Although most Veterans opt to fly into and out of their treatment same-day, the Veteran must cover any hotel costs should they opt to stay the night.

VIP Physician Workflow:

A Moment with VIP Physician John Ferrell

<https://youtu.be/cfXIcGbVcog>

The V.I.P. Physician Workflow ensures our Physicians remain in complete control of the medical treatment process, while our Veteran feels supported throughout.

•Once V.I.P. declares candidacy of a V.I.P. Veteran Applicant through our Application, Waiver, and Zoom Intake, we will submit the patient-summary to an appropriate V.I.P. Physician who then informs us as to acceptance or denial of our Veteran’s case.

•The Physician’s office contacts their V.I.P. Veteran match and schedules their in-person consultation / Tele-Consult.

•If approved by the Physician for treatment, please notify V.I.P. of date of procedure so we may assist in coordinating the donation of pro bono Kits and devices through our official partners at EmCyte Corporation and Lipogems, and to facilitate any necessary air travel, if required, at no cost to the Veteran.

•Billing: V.I.P. Physicians volunteer their consultations & services at no cost to the Veteran. If the hard costs exceed the Veteran’s ability to pay, and the Veteran gives permission to bill their private or VA insurance for insurance-only billable services, the practice may do so.

Veteran - Post Consultation:

Our VIP Physicians and Specialists provide their services at no cost to the VIP Veterans in our program. However, although rare, there may be certain costs which may not be avoidable. Additionally, we partner with an elite product company, EmCyte, who generously distributes to our Veteran procedures pro bono BMAC and PRP Kits. Prior to scheduling your procedure, ensure that 1. You know exactly what if any hard costs there may be, so that if you need funding in order to cover these costs, we could be notified to assist you. 2. Ensure that, if requested by the physicians office, that EmCyte has delivered the required PRP / BMAC kit should this pertain to your treatment.

Funding Options:

Semper Fi & The Americas Fund

Semper Fi & America’s Fund cares for our nation’s critically wounded, ill, and injured service members, veterans, and military families. Supporting all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, we provide one-on-one case management, connection, and lifetime support. Today. Tomorrow. Together.

[www.TheFund.org](http://www.TheFund.org)

Operation Homefront

If you need to contact someone about Critical Financial Assistance, please call the Critical Financial Assistance Line at: 1-877-264-3968 (toll free); 210-549-4600 (local); and 1-855-552-0838 (fax).

California Office

5725 Kearny Villa Road Suite D

San Diego, CA 92123

[california@operationhomefront.org](mailto:california@operationhomefront.org)

Headquarters Office

1355 Central Parkway S Suite 100

San Antonio, TX 78232

Phone: (210) 659-7756

Toll: (800) 722-6098

Fax: (210) 566-7544

[info@operationhomefront.org](mailto:info@operationhomefront.org)

Pro Bono Air Travel:

Veterans Airlift Command

Our VIP Veterans may apply to our nonprofit partners for pro bono private air flights for local/regional travel at [www.VeteransAirlift.org](http://www.VeteransAirlift.org) However, you must be an official Veterans In Pain VIP Veteran to qualify, or be a Veteran suffering from Cancer.

The VIP Legislative Initiative:

The Veterans In Pain VIP Regenerative Therapies for Veterans Act - is for Government funding of Vouchers for Orthobiologics and Alternative solutions for Veterans suffering from chronic pain.

Our VIP Manifesto is available by request. Simply contact TeamVIP@VeteransInPain.org

DONATIONS:

We cannot continue our efforts and all that goes into conducting our mission without grass roots financial support. Please share our mission with others. VIP is a nationally IRS Certified 501c3 Nonprofit.

[www.VeteransInPain.org/donate](http://www.VeteransInPain.org/donate)

We hope this helps to summarize a few of the primary facilitations we conduct, and the conditions we most often encounter for care.

 If you have any additional questions whatsoever, please reach out to us anytime!

Warmly,

Micaela Bensko

Founder, Veterans In Pain VIP

310-990-8389