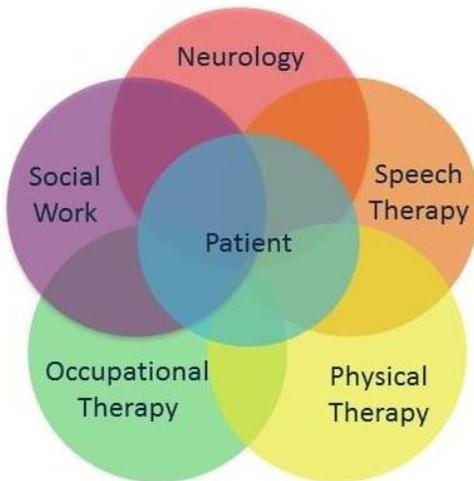


## New Multidisciplinary ALS Clinic at the Atlanta VA Medical Center



Veterans who receive ALS care at the Atlanta VA Medical Center will now have access to services from a multidisciplinary team during VA neurology appointments. **As of June 2018, the ALS clinic meets on the first and third Monday morning of each month.** Patients will continue to see Dr. Fournier, but now in addition, patients will also be able to see a physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist, social worker, and research coordinator in the same location without having to schedule additional appointments. ALS clinic visits with the full team are now expected to take at least 90 minutes, but should streamline ALS care and reduce the number of future in-person visits that are needed to see different specialists.

Any veteran with ALS who does currently receive VA healthcare should enroll in the VA healthcare system. For unknown reasons, military veterans are at greater risk for developing ALS compared to civilians. As a result, the Department of Veteran affairs determined that any veteran diagnosed with ALS would be automatically service connected for this diagnosis. This 100% service connection means that veterans can receive all of their healthcare, medications, and equipment needs at no cost through the VA. Service connected veterans with ALS are also eligible to receive disability compensation and receive grants for housing adaptations and vehicle allowances. Anyone who served at least 90 days of continuous active duty in the U.S. military may qualify for VA benefits.

If you are not currently enrolled in the VA healthcare system, the first step is to complete a copy of the 10-10EZ form (<https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/1010EZ-fillable.pdf>) and submit it to the Atlanta VA Eligibility Office. If you need VA assistance completing the form, you can call 1-877-222-VETS (8387). Once completed, submit this form and a copy of your DD 214 form (the Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty form) to the Atlanta VA Eligibility Office. **Contact information for the Atlanta VA Eligibility Office can be found here: <https://www.atlanta.va.gov/patients/eligibility.asp>.**

We also recommend requesting assistance from your local Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) representative and sending him a copy of the above documents so he can help facilitate and track your claim. His name is Mitch Hinkle, email address [Mitchell@pva.org](mailto:Mitchell@pva.org), phone number 404-929-5333, fax 404-929-5337. Upon request, we at the Emory ALS Center can send copies of your recent records and a VA-specific ALS disability questionnaire form to Mitch Hinkle on your behalf to confirm the ALS diagnosis and medical eligibility for the 100% service connection.