



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

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July 22, 2009

TUSCALOOSA VA NAMED IN TOP PSYCHIATRIC FACILITIES IN NATION

TUSCALOOSA – The Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center announced today it had been rated as one of the top psychiatric hospitals in the country by US News and World Report.

In a recent US News and World Report article, a total of 4,861 hospitals were judged in 16 specialties, with psychiatry being one of the 16.

According to the article, to be a candidate for these specialties, a hospital first had to meet any one of three criteria: be a teaching hospital, have at least 200 beds, or have at least 100 beds and at least four out of eight important medical technologies.

Twelve of the 16 specialties were rated based on reputation, death rate, patient safety, and care-related factors such as nursing and patient services. The remaining four of the 16 specialties, including psychiatry, were rated on reputation alone, because so few patients die that mortality data means little. As in the other 12 specialties, US News and World Report surveyed specialists and used their responses for the most recent three years.

Out of 133 hospitals that made the list for psychiatry, only the top 22 were ranked on the US News and World Report Web site, while the remaining were alphabetized. Based on ratings received, Tuscaloosa VA made it into the top 60 psychiatric hospitals.

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US News Ranking 2-2-2

“We are very proud and honored to be recognized in this elite group by such a prestigious organization as US News and World Report,” said Damon Stevenson, Public Affairs Officer at the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center. “Tuscaloosa VA is committed to providing care second to none to our veterans suffering with mental illness and it is nice to be recognized for the outstanding work our staff are doing in that regard.”

Tuscaloosa VA has approximately 200 psychiatric beds and offers the following Mental Health services for eligible veterans: Acute Psychiatry; Substance Abuse Psychosocial Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program; PTSD Residential Rehabilitation Program; Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residential Program; Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program for homeless veterans, mild to moderate Traumatic Brain Injury/PTSD screening program; general outpatient mental health services and specialty outpatient services for PTSD and Substance Abuse.

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