**INTRODUCTION**
The Fresno Medical Respite Center was established through the collaboration between local hospitals, Clinica Sierra Vista, Marjaree Mason Center, the Hospital Council of Northern and Central California and other agencies and made possible through a generous grant from the Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit Program. The Respite Center is a “first of its kind” in Fresno; however, there are other medical respite centers in California. The Center opened July 2011.

**PURPOSE OF THE CENTER**
The Center was established to provide a safe environment where homeless individuals can stay to complete their recuperation after having been discharged from a hospital. Where do individuals go when they are homeless and are told they are being discharged? This center provides the answer.

**THE CENTER**
- Enhances recovery and health status
- Provides a safe discharge alternative
- Decreases length of hospital stays
- Ensures hospital beds are available for acute patients
- Reduces inappropriate ED use
- Reduces hospital re-admissions
- Provides for patient connection/referral to community services, housing, health care coverage, and follow-up care

**LOCATION**
The Fresno Medical Respite Center is located at the Fresno Rescue Mission located at 315 G Street in downtown Fresno.

**BED AVAILABILITY**
There are eight (8) beds available for male patients and two (2) beds available for female patients.

**WHO WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE FRESNO MEDICAL RESPITE CENTER?**
Homeless individuals who are discharged from an acute care hospital and require additional time for recuperation and who meet the admission criteria are eligible for admission. Clinica Sierra Vista medical staff will screen each client before the client is admitted to the Medical Respite Center for appropriateness of placement.

**A SUCCESSFUL CLIENT FOR RESPITE CARE:**
- Demonstrates a medical reason for respite care
- Is independent in wound care and medication administration
- Transfers and ambulates independently
- Is continent of bowel and bladder
- Is clean and sober
- Is psychologically stable

**WHO IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR RESPITE CARE?**
- Needs SNF level of care
- Needs substance abuse treatment
- Has acute psychiatric needs
- Is in acute withdrawals
- Primarily needs housing

**WHAT KIND OF CARE WILL BE AVAILABLE?**
The staff of Clinica Sierra Vista will assist clients to attend to their own care needs, provide education, monitor their progress, and link them to other community services (e.g. housing, dental care, social security documents, etc.).

**LENGTH OF STAY**
The average length of stay for a medical respite client is 2 – 6 weeks depending on the condition. Clients will be referred to the Fresno / Madera Continuum of Care members for permanent housing options.

**REFERRAL PROCESS**
- Referrals will be accepted Monday – Saturday from 0900 – 1600.
- Only hospital case managers or discharge planners can refer patients to the Fresno Medical Respite Center.
- Hospital case managers or discharge planning staff will first screen the patient to make sure all admission requirements are met and then call the Medical Respite Center cell phone at 559-513-5731.
- A staff member from the respite program will call back and assess patient appropriateness for admission and bed availability.
- If the admission is approved, the medical respite intake form must be completed and faxed to Clinica Sierra Vista.
- Once the patient has been accepted, the patient will be sent by taxi to the Clinica Sierra Vista Divisadero Clinic (145 N. Clark Street, Fresno 93701) for screening by the medical staff.

**EXPECTATIONS FROM THE SENDING HOSPITAL**
Before the patient leaves the hospital, please make sure the patient has in hand:
- Two week supply of medications
- Wound care supplies / glucometer supplies
- Send by taxi to Clinica Sierra Vista Divisadero Clinic with 1 extra taxi voucher
- Patient must arrive by 1600
OVERSIGHT, FEEDBACK AND EVALUATION
The Medical Respite Steering Committee meets to:
• Recommend changes in concept / strategy
• Make decisions regarding any changes in funding for beds
• Review operational issues and recommend changes in referral process
• Problem solve around communication and referral issues

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE
Clinica Sierra Vista Social Workers will assist clients in identifying community resources to help them post-discharge from the Medical Respite Center. These services may include health care coverage and housing options.

CONTACT
Kevin Hamilton 559.457.5959
Deputy Chief of Programs Clinica Sierra Vista

Chaplain Jay Carroll 559.268.0839 x205
Director, Community Care Fresno Rescue Mission

Initial planning grant provided by:
Kaiser Permanente

Operational funding and support provided by:
Community Medical Centers
Kaiser Permanente
Saint Agnes Medical Center