

The Department of Veterans Affairs Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System outpatient clinic in North Platte welcomes Dr. Gary Vandewege as its new physician.

Dr. Vandewege replaces Dr. Susan Schuckert, who is leaving the VA health care system to start a private practice in North Platte.

Dr. Vandewege was a primary care physician at the VA outpatient clinic in Holdrege since it opened in June 2008.

The doctor joins Cynthia Buchmeir and Renee Sullivan, both nurse practitioners, to provide primary care to 2,600 veterans in and around the North Platte area.

In addition to the three primary-care providers, the clinic staff includes two licensed practical nurses, two registered nurses, two medical clerks and a laboratory technician.

Veterans who receive care at the VA clinic were notified about the change in providers from letters recently sent to them from the VA NWIHCS.

To contact the North Platte VA clinic, veterans can call (308) 532-6906. The clinic is located at 600 E. Francis, Suite 3.

Veterans who are not currently enrolled in the VA health care system, but who would like to determine their eligibility can visit the VA NWIHCS web site at www.nebraska.va.gov or call the Grand Island Division eligibility office at (866) 580-1810, extension 92483.

The VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System proudly serves more than 167,660 veterans in Nebraska, western Iowa and portions of Kansas and Missouri. Omaha's medical center is an inpatient facility and also a large outpatient clinic for primary and specialty care.

The Community Living Center is in Grand Island. There are community-based outpatient clinics in Lincoln, Grand Island, North Platte, Holdrege, Norfolk, Bellevue and Shenandoah, Iowa. For more information, visit <http://www.nebraska.va.gov>.