

Member Benefit: Nursing and Social Services Support

Lee Reed and Meaghan McMahon

Our healthcare system is complex and even on our best days it can be difficult and frustrating to navigate. The professional services of the DCV can help smooth out this process. If you find yourself in need of nursing or social work guidance, the first step is to contact Eva M. Lucero, DCV's Executive Director. She will then connect you to either Lee Reed, R.N. our Healthcare Navigator or Meaghan McMahon, LGSW, our Social Worker.

Why might you need this service? You may be hospitalized following a surgery and need help transitioning safely back home. You may be wondering, how am I going to manage this new change in my life? Our social services and nursing support team can guide you through this process including:

- Visiting you at the hospital prior to discharge
- Reviewing your discharge paperwork with you
- Arranging for transportation home
- Helping you understand your medications and new prescriptions
- Advocating for you each step of the way

Our team can also help you understand the often-overwhelming world of healthcare acronyms. For example, your surgeon may have a Physician Assistant (P.A.) and a Nurse Practitioner (N.P.) working with her. Which professional to see largely depends on the practice set up. The key person to answer this question is the Practice Manager.

Briefly, a "Nurse Practitioner" is a **Registered Nurse** with a graduate degree in advanced practice nursing" (MedlinePlus).

"A Physician Assistant may come from a variety of backgrounds. The programs are often associated with **Medical Schools**". (MedlinePlus). Generally speaking, the P.A. is more associated with the **Medical aspect** of care.

To obtain a full picture of the role of each, you can go to **MedlinePlus**. In the search bar, simply type in "Nurse Practitioner" and "Physician Assistant Profession".