



# Collier County Government



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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **ALLEGATIONS RAISED ABOUT TREATMENT PROCEDURES AT MIAMI VA HOSPITAL**

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On Tuesday, March 24, allegations were made against the Miami VA Healthcare System concerning colonoscopy procedures. The Miami Herald reported the hospital was allegedly using unsterilized colonoscopy equipment and immediately veteran associations and departments in the state began receiving calls from Veterans.

Collier County Veteran Services, a department in the Public Services Division, reports that while most of its veterans that it transports free to VA medical appointments go to Fort Myers, FL some have obtained medical services from the Miami VA Healthcare System.

“I am in contact with the Miami VA Healthcare System to determine which Collier County veterans may have utilized the hospital’s services during the time period of concern,” said Collier County Veteran Services Director Peter Kraley.

The Miami VA Healthcare System, in a press release on Wednesday, March 25, said, “The Miami VA Healthcare System will be notifying veterans, by letter, who had an endoscopic procedure performed between May 2004 and March 12, 2009.” The press release also stated that endoscope tubing was properly rinsed, however tubing was not disinfected according to the manufacturer’s recommendations.

The Veteran Services Department transports veterans to VA clinics and hospitals for appointments as a free service. More than 700 Veterans used this service from October 2007 through September 2008. Most Collier County veterans seek medical care from the Fort Myers and Naples VA Clinics.

Patients of the Miami VA Healthcare System have been asked to call the Special Care Call Center at (305) 575-7256 or 877-575-7256. This customer line is open 24 hours a day seven days a week.