

Responding to the Demand: SLPs in the VA

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Responding to the Demand

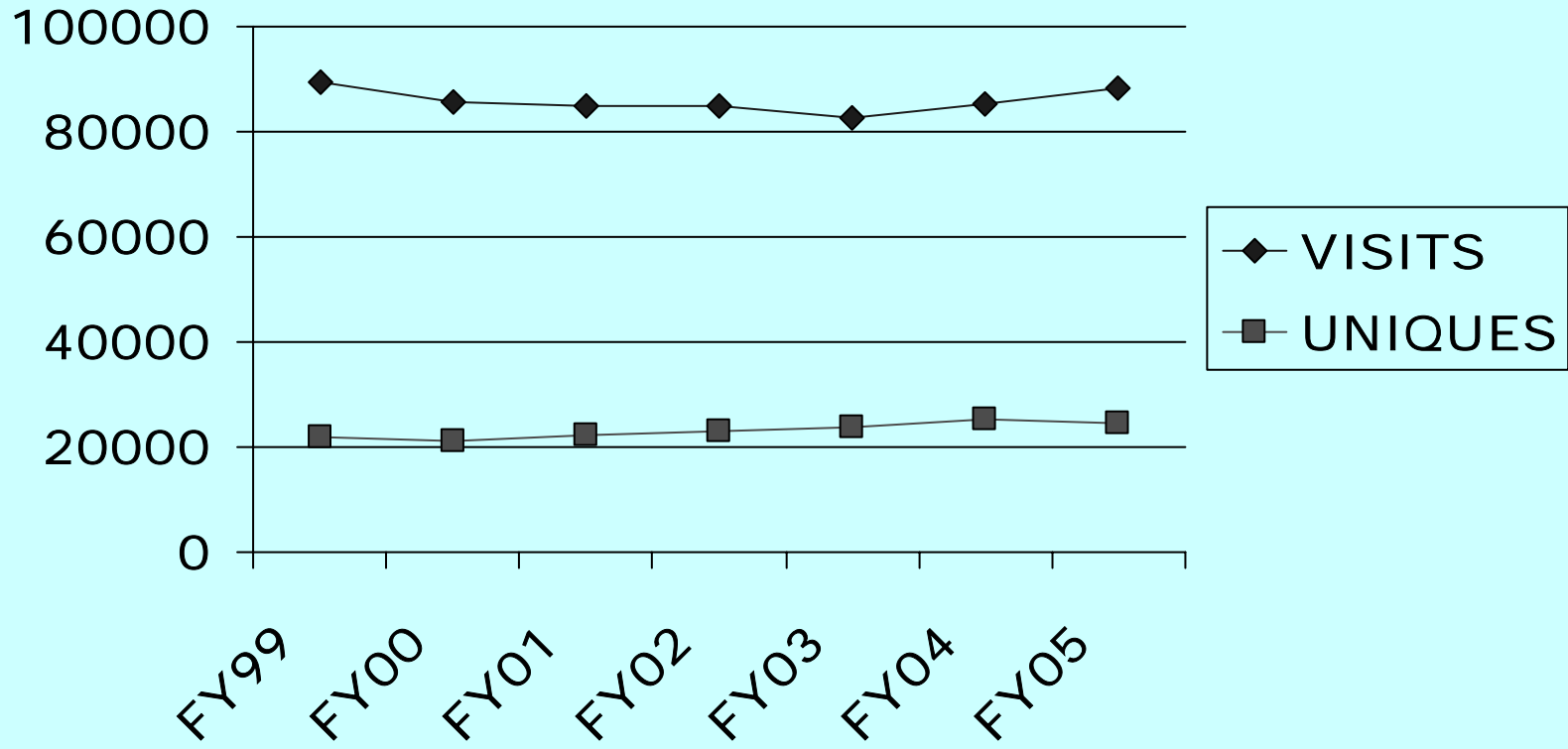
- 246 clinical SLPs
- 10 research SLPs
- 58 audiologists/ speech language pathologists
- Staffing levels have been fairly stable for the past five years

National SLP Statistics (FY05)

- Outpatient visits – 88,318 (down 3% from FY04)
- Number of unique patients– 24,476 (no change from FY04)
- Visits per unique – 3.27 (down 3% from FY04)

Note: SLP inpatient utilization data is not available (reported by DRG or treating specialty. Inpatient data is now included in National Care Database. Source: KLF Workload Report

Speech-Language Pathology Outpatient Visits



Areas of Practice

- Dysphagia
- Cognitive-communication: geriatrics, stroke, TBI, polytrauma
- Voice: laryngectomy, vent dependent
- Assistive devices: AAC, CPD
- Education: patients, families, providers

Traineeships

- 19 Clinical Fellowships
- 42 Masters Traineeships
- Competitive site selection using automated standards of excellence
- Training to full scope of practice
- Staffing, workload, facilities, EBP, outcomes

Quality of SLP Student Training

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SCORES

<u>Measure</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Overall (Goal=85)	91	89
Rated Excellent or Very Good	91	90
Recommend to Others	94	93
Choose Training Again	91	89
As good as Other Training	89	89

VA-WIDE SCORES

<u>Measure</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Overall (Goal=85)	84	85
Rated Excellent or Very Good	74	78
Recommend to Others	88	90
Choose Training Again	85	87
As good as Other Training	80	85

Trainees Considering VA Employment

- SLP trainees considering VA employment
 - 45% before training
 - 78% after training
- VA-wide
 - 33% before training
 - 66% after training

Source: 2006 Learner perception survey, Office of Academic Affiliations

Hot topics

- VA Dysphagia Directive
- Polytrauma System of Care
- Hybrid Title 38

VA Dysphagia Directive

- VHA Directive *Management of Patients with Feeding and Swallowing Problems in Veterans Health Administration Facilities* Released 5-17-06
- “It is VHA policy that all patients with swallowing or feeding disorders must be appropriately assessed, referred for diagnostic evaluation, monitored, treated, managed, and followed throughout the continuum of care including hospitalization, outpatient care, and when discharged.”
- SLP had lead role on the multidisciplinary task force charged with developing the directive
- SLPs have lead role on multidisciplinary task forces at local facilities charged with developing local policies and procedures to implement the National Directive

Polytrauma Defined

- Trauma to several body parts and organ systems
- Occur at the same time
- Cause physical, cognitive, or psychosocial impairments and functional disability

VA Polytrauma System Of Care (PSC)

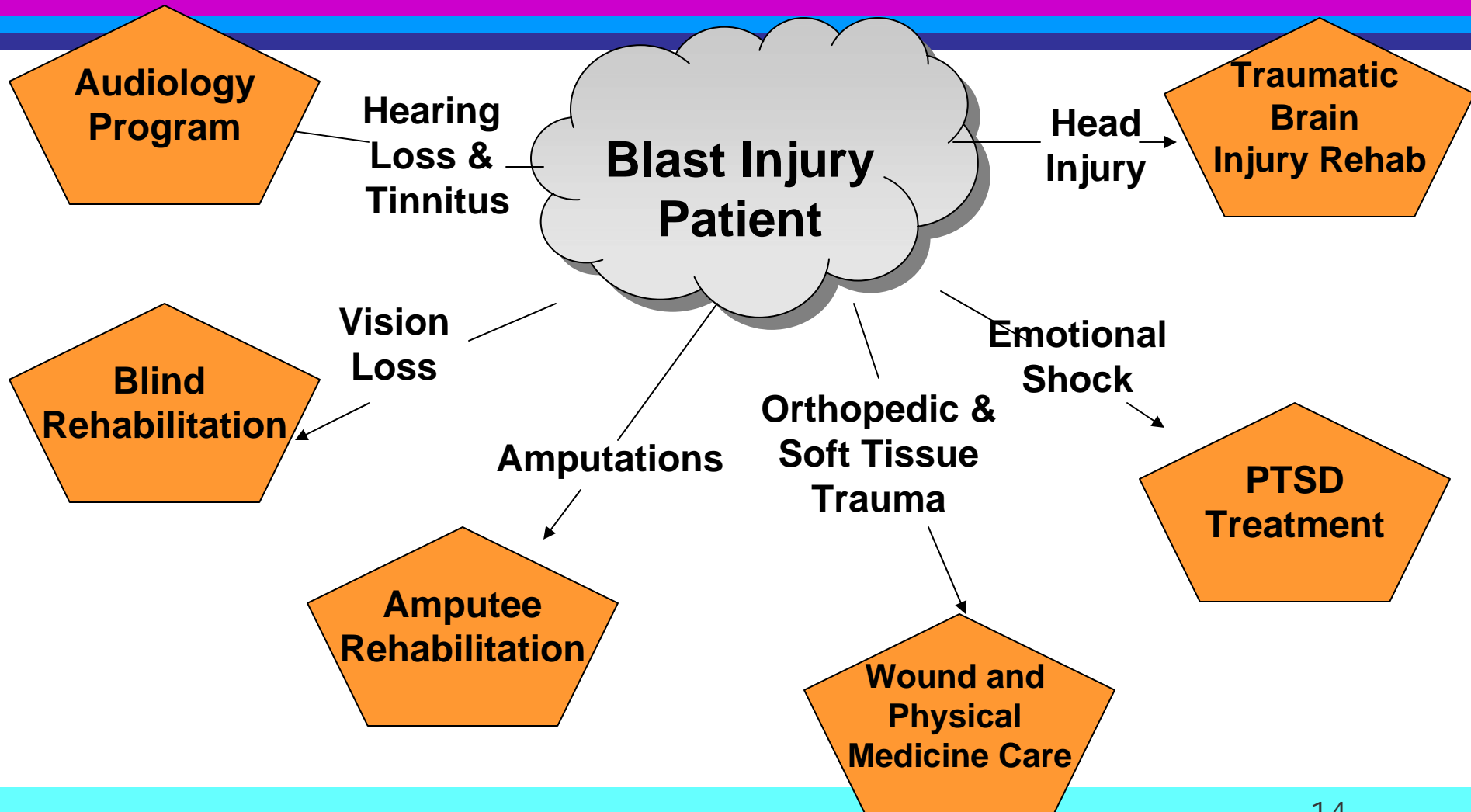
Specialized sites for rehabilitative services

- Geographically distributed
- Integrate care at one location
- Coordinate life-long care across a continuum of services
- Interdisciplinary rehabilitation teams
- Polytrauma Telehealth Network
- Proactive case management

Organization of the VA Polytrauma System of Care

- Regional
 - Polytrauma Rehabilitation Centers (PRC)
 - Regional referrals for acute comprehensive rehabilitation
- Network
 - Polytrauma Network Sites (PNS)
 - VISN level referrals for post acute rehabilitation
- Facility
 - Polytrauma Support Clinic Team (PSCT)
 - Polytrauma Point of Contact (PPOC)

Comprehensive Care for the Polytrauma Patient



Role of SLPs in Polytrauma Rehabilitation

- SLP is core discipline in interdisciplinary team
- Supplemental funds to support SLP positions at PRCs and PNSs
- Participate in program development
- Educational activities as providers and beneficiaries

Hybrid Title 38

- Audiologists and SLPs added to Hybrid Title 38 as of December 6, 2003 (PL 108-170)
- New qualification standards approved
- Special one-time boarding of all employees during FY06
- Professional standards boards have been implemented, one national and four regional boards
- Goal: Improved recruiting and retention

Productivity

- Joint Audiology and SLP Task Force
- Collaboration with ACA and Physician Productivity Group
- Productivity model development
- Alpha testing at selected sites

Thanks for Listening

