Part of Bridging the Gap between a treatment program and A.A. is the Temporary Contact Program, which is designed to help the alcoholic in an alcoholism treatment program make that transition.

As you know, one of the more "slippery" places in the journey to sobriety is between the door of the facility and the nearest A.A. group or meeting. Some of us can tell you that, even though we heard of A.A. in treatment, we were too fearful to go.

A.A. experience suggests that attending meetings regularly is critical. In order to bridge the gap, A.A. members have volunteered to be temporary contacts and introduce newcomers to Alcoholics Anonymous.

The video "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous," shown to patients in treatment, emphasizes the importance of having a temporary contact as the essential link between treatment and recovery. It is suggested that the temporary contact take the newcomer to a variety of A.A. meetings; introduce him or her to other A.A.s; insure that he or she has the phone numbers of several A.A. members, and share the experience of sponsorship and a home group.

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38M – 04/18 (PAH)
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**Alcoholics Anonymous** is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

- The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.
- A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes.
- Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.
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30M – 04/18 (PAH)
Temporary Contact guidelines

- Keep in mind that this is basic Twelfth Step work.
- Experience suggests that it is best to be accompa-
nied by another A.A. member when meeting
our newcomer. One of the two temporary
contacts should have at least one year of sobriety.
- Experience also suggests that men work with
men and women work with women.
- The intent is to provide the newcomer with your
help for a limited time. You need not have experi-
ence with treatment settings. Your qualifications
are experience as an alcoholic and recovery in A.A.
- It may be helpful for you as a temporary con-
tact to attend workshops on bridging the gap and
attend meetings of your area’s hospital and/or
treatment committees.
- Remember, the goal of both A.A. and the
treatment settings is the same — the recovery of
the alcoholic.
- Be familiar with the paper “Information on
Alcoholics Anonymous,” particularly the section
that may be interpreted as medical or psychological diag-
nosis or advice on medication should be avoided.
In many cases, months of hard work have gone
away from one drink, one day at a time, through the
program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Try to do the following:

- Make contact with the newcomer while he or
she is still in treatment. To avoid any misunder-
standings, explain clearly that this is a temporary
arrangement.
- Review the many different meeting formats —
cover the difference between open and closed
A.A. meetings and accompany the newcomer to a
variety of meetings. Give the newcomer an A.A.
meeting schedule.
- Introduce the newcomer to A.A. Conference-
approved books (particularly the Big Book), pam-
phlets and AA Grapevine.
- Explain group membership and the value of
having a home group.
- Explain sponsorship to the newcomer, refer-
ing to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers
on Sponsorship,” and perhaps help the newcomer
find a sponsor.
- Points to remember

  A.A. does not provide housing, food, clothing,
  jobs, money or other welfare or social services.
  The professional treatment setting is in charge of
  its patients or clients and is responsible for them.
  While we cannot compromise our A.A. Traditions,
  we should remember that we are there as guests of
  the facility, and must abide by its rules. We are there
to carry the A.A. message to the newcomer, and to
  answer any questions regarding the A.A. program
  of recovery and the A.A. way of life. Statements
  that may be interpreted as medical or psychological diag-
nosis or advice on medication should be avoided.
  We are there only to share our experience of staying
  away from one drink, one day at a time, through the
  program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

If you would like to help...

If you would like to help in this very important
Twelfth Step work and have at least one year of
continuous sobriety in the A.A. program, please
complete the following information and give it to
your group’s treatment representative, general
service representative (G.S.R.), or mail it to the
chairperson of your area or district treatment
committee or your general service delegate. In
some areas, service committees and temporary
contact programs are organized through the local
intergroup or central office. Or send it to the
Treatment Desk, General Service Office, Box
459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163,
www.aa.org, so that G.S.O. can forward the infor-
mation to your area, district or other Treatment
Committee.
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In many cases, months of hard work have gone into establishing a relationship which enables us to be invited into a facility. A careless action could destroy that trust and interfere with carrying the message. If problems arise, inform the local service committee. They may wish to present an A.A. informational meeting. No one speaks for A.A. as a whole. When we look, act and talk we may be all they are going to know about Alcoholics Anonymous. Since we may be seen as part of A.A., let our new friends see, hear and talk to a winner!

If you would like to help...
If you would like to help in this very important Twelfth Step work and have at least one year of continuous sobriety in the A.A. program, please complete the following information and give it to your group’s treatment representative, general service representative (G.S.R.), or mail it to the chairperson of your area or district treatment committee or your general service delegate. In some areas, service committees and temporary contact programs are organized through the local inpatient or central office. Or send it to the Treatment Desk, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163, www.aa.org, so that G.S.O. can forward the information to your area, district or other Treatment Committee.

Temporary Contact guidelines
• Keep in mind that this is basic Twelfth Step work.
• Experience suggests that it is best to be accompanied by another A.A. member when meeting our newcomer. One of the two temporary contacts should have at least a year of sobriety.
• Experience also suggests that men work with men and women work with women.
• The intent is to provide the newcomer with your help for a limited time. You need not have experience with treatment settings. Your qualifications are experience as an alcoholic and recovery in A.A.
• It may be helpful for you as a temporary contact to attend workshops on bridging the gap and attend meetings of your area’s hospital and/or treatment committees.
• Remember, the goal of both A.A. and the treatment setting is the same — the recovery of the alcoholic.
• Be familiar with the paper “Information on Alcoholics Anonymous,” particularly the section on what A.A. does and does not do.
• In all contacts or activities with treatment settings, it is extremely important to be punctual and to look your best.

Try to do the following
• Make contact with the newcomer while he or she is still in treatment. To avoid any misunderstandings, explain clearly that this is a temporary arrangement.
• Review the many different meeting formats — cover the difference between open and closed A.A. meetings and accompany the newcomer to a variety of meetings. Give the newcomer an A.A. meeting schedule.
• Introduce the newcomer to A.A. Conference-approved books (particularly the Big Book), pamphlets and AA Grapevine.
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Try to do the following:

- Make contact with the newcomer while he or she is still in treatment. To avoid any misunderstandings, explain clearly that this is a temporary arrangement.
- Review the many different meeting formats — cover the difference between open and closed A.A. meetings and accompany the newcomer to a variety of meetings.
- Give the newcomer an A.A. meeting schedule.
- Sponsor a newcomer in A.A. meetings and accompany the newcomer to a sponsorship meeting in A.A.
- Explain group membership and the value of having a home group.
- Explain sponsorship to the newcomer, referring to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship,” and perhaps help the newcomer find a sponsor.
- Points to remember
- A.A. does not provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money or other welfare or social services.
- The professional treatment setting is in charge of its patients or clients and is responsible for them.
- We cannot compromise our A.A. Traditions, we should remember that we are there as guests of the facility, and must abide by its rules. We are there to carry the A.A. message to the newcomer, and to ensure any questions regarding the A.A. program of recovery and the A.A. way of life. Statements that may be interpreted as medical or psychological diagnosis or advice on medication should be avoided.
- We are there only to share our experience of stageing away from one drink, one day at a time, through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- In many cases, months of hard work have gone into establishing a relationship which enables us to be invited into a facility. A careless action could destroy that trust and interfere with carrying the message. If problems arise, inform the local service committee. They may wish to present an A.A. informational meeting.
- No one speaks for A.A. as a whole. When we carry the A.A. message to those in treatment, we are just one drunk talking with another. How we look, act and talk may be all they are going to know about Alcoholics Anonymous. Since we may be seen as part of A.A., let our new friends see, hear and talk to a winner!

If you would like to help...

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- Experience also suggests that men work with men and women work with women.
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- It may be helpful for you as a temporary contact to attend workshops on bridging the gap and attend meetings of your area’s hospital and/or treatment committees.
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- Be familiar with the paper “Information on Alcoholics Anonymous,” particularly the section on what A.A. does and does not do.
- In all contacts or activities with treatment settings, it is extremely important to be punctual and to look your best.

Try to do the following:

- Make contact with the newcomer while he or she is still in treatment. To avoid any misunderstanding, explain clearly that this is a temporary arrangement.
- Review the many different meeting formats – cover the difference between open and closed A.A. meetings and accompany the newcomer to a variety of meetings. Give the newcomer an A.A. membership card.
- Introduce the newcomer to A.A. Conference-approved books (particularly the Big Book), pamphlets and AA Grapevine.
- Explain group membership and the value of having a home group.
- Explain sponsorship to the newcomer, referring to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship,” and perhaps help the newcomer find a sponsor.

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DATE__________________________
NAME__________________________
ADDRESS________________________
CITY____________________________
STATE OR PROVINCE________________
ZIP OR MAIL CODE________________
PHONE__________________________
EVENINGS______________________

If you are a temporary contact, you may be seen as part of A.A., let our new friends see, hear and talk to a winner! If you are not a temporary contact, do not.

Try to do the following:

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Bridging the Gap

Between treatment and A.A. through contact programs

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