

*The second step of the 3 Step Referral method in which a counselor identifies a local meeting for the patient to attend and arranges for a current self-help member to accompany the patient to the meeting proved to be a bit challenging to providers in our focus groups. Thus, we decided to obtain feedback directly from SUD care providers on how best to implement the second step.*

*Close to 30 VA sites nationwide participated in a brief study to provide feedback on how to best implement step two.*

*Listed below are the top three recommendations accounting for feasibility, staff interest, and site/participant preference.*

**Recommendations:**

1. During a group meeting, an established VA patient(s) with a consistent record of self-help attendance will volunteer to accompany the patient(s) to his/her first meeting.
2. The treatment program engages a veteran hired as a Peer Support Technician to coordinate all steps:
  - a. Calls self-help groups to obtain a list of temporary sponsors willing to accompany patient(s) to his/her first meeting
  - b. Schedules temporary sponsors to accompany patient(s) to first meeting
3. The treatment program creates an Associate Peer Program based upon program specific criteria. Patient(s) who are relatively advanced in their recovery can qualify as Associate Peers. The Associate Peer will post their availability (i.e. on a ride board) and the treatment provider will introduce the medium to the patient(s).