

VA HEALTH CARE BENEFITS

VA Health Care is a huge subject to cover in this short letter. It is our attempt to share the very basics of the vast VA Health Care programs.

Enrollment: Veterans can apply for enrollment in the VA Health Care system at any VA medical facility or clinic, on-line, or by calling toll free at 1-877-222-VETS (8387), and completing VA Form 10-10 EZ. Completed applications may be submitted in person or by mail to any VA Health Care facility. Current means testing income thresholds can be found at www.va.gov/healtheligibility.

Priority Groups:

- Priority Group 1 – Veterans with service connected disability rated 50% or more. Veterans determined by VA to be unemployable due to VA service connected conditions.
- Priority Group 2- Service connected 30% or 40% disabling
- Priority Group 3- Former POWs, Veterans awarded the Purple Heart Metal, Veterans with service connected disabilities 10% or 20% disabling.
- Priority Group 4- Veterans receiving VA aid and attendance or housebound and veterans determined by VA to be catastrophically disabled (permanently compromises their ability to carry out the activities of daily living, contact the enrollment coordinator to schedule an evaluation for this condition).
- Priority Group 5- Veterans receiving VA Pension benefits or veterans eligible for Medicaid benefits or 0% and below means test thresholds.
- Priority Group 6- Combat veterans discharged after January 28, 2003 and 5 years post discharge from current wars in the Middle East.
- Priority Group 7- Veterans above the national income level and below the geographic income level and agree to pay co-pays.
- Priority Group 8- Veterans above the VA National and Geographic Income levels. Non-compensable 0% service connected.

Co-pays – Veterans whose income exceeds the established income threshold, as well as, those who choose not to complete the financial assessment (Means test) must agree to pay co-pays.

Types of Co-pays:

- Out-patient co-pays- for primary care services in VA clinics and additional co-pays for specialty care services such as surgeons, radiologist, audiologist, optometrist, and cardiologist
- Medication- Paid on each prescription for 30-day supply for all categories 2-6
- In-patient copays- co-pay charge for each 90 days of care within a 365 day period regardless of the level of care provided (Intensive care, surgical care)
- Long-term care co-pay- per day co-pay for community living centers, adult day health care, or domiciliary care. There are no co-pays for hospice care provided in any setting.

Travel Pay - \$0.415 per mile rate (subject to changes) for:

- Service connected 30% or more
- Traveling for treatment of service connected condition
- Traveling for scheduled compensation or pension examination
- Low income – below pension rate

Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255 (TALK) Not just for veterans – of 293,513 calls received by lifeline 156,138 were from veterans. Be sure this phone number is posted and available to all members.

Long-term Care Benefits: (Available to all enrolled veterans)

- Geriatric evaluation (no co-pay) – the plan could include treatment, rehabilitation, health promotion, and social services
- Adult Day Health Care (No co-pay)
- Respite Care (No co-pay) - Short term basic to give caregiver a planned period of relief. Can be in-home or now – institutional settings
- Home care skilled home care is provided by VA and contracted agencies to veterans who are homebound with chronic diseases and includes nursing, physical/occupational therapy, and social services
- Hospice/Palliative Care (no co-pay) – No co-pay or charges for hospice care or bereavement counseling for family members
- Veterans War Pension as a non-service connected benefit is available for any war veteran in nursing homes on private pay. If Medicaid/Medicare, they are a ward of the state.

Internet sites for VA Health Care;

To get 10-10EZ to enroll for VA Health Care

www.1010ez.medva.gov

VA Health Care Qualifier

www.4vagov/healtheligibility

To get a copy of your medical records (form 10-5045A)

vaforms/medical/pdf

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