



## ELIGIBILITY FOR AND ENROLLMENT IN VA HEALTHCARE

If eligible for VA healthcare, your Veteran client can benefit in several ways. Benefits include direct mental health care or access to VA resources and services that can support the care he or she receives in the community. The first step is finding out if the Veteran you are working with is eligible. From there you can choose to refer or find additional resources that can support the care that you are providing (for example, group treatments, specialty care, housing resources).

### ELIGIBILITY STATUS

Generally, if someone has served 24 consecutive months of active duty service in the military, naval, or air service and separated under conditions other than dishonorable, they may be eligible, see <https://www.vets.gov/health-care/eligibility> for more information. In some cases their eligibility may be based on their income. There are some special conditions, such as:

#### Special Conditions

- Experienced MST (Military Sexual Trauma). All treatment for physical and mental health conditions related to MST is free. Veterans may be able to receive this free MST-related care even if they are not eligible for other VA care. Please contact your local health care facility and ask to speak to the MST Coordinator to learn more.
- Reservists who serve on active duty establish Veteran status and may be eligible for the full range of VA benefits. In addition, reservists not activated may qualify for some VA benefits.
- National Guard members can establish eligibility for VA benefits if activated for federal service during a war (for example, serving in combat) or domestic emergency.
- Military Veterans who served in combat, such as those who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and New Dawn, since Nov. 11, 1998 are eligible to receive five years of enhanced enrollment eligibility for VA health care services (from the date of their military discharge/separation). This includes cost-free health care from VA for conditions that are possibly related to combat service. Go to the VA's Health Benefits website for more information: [https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply/returning\\_servicemembers.asp](https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply/returning_servicemembers.asp).

#### Determining Eligibility

Determining the eligibility status and possible co-payment information for a Veteran can be complicated. Because of this we strongly suggest encouraging your client to apply for enrollment even if you feel he or she may not be eligible.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions about enrollment in VA Healthcare, you may want to contact the following:

- Telephone: Call the Enrollment Coordinator at your local VA Health Care Facility, <https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isFlash=0>, or (877) 222-VETS (8387).





- Online: Visit the enrollment and benefits webpage, <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/>, to have your client enroll or update their information online.
- Mail: Print the 10-10EZ form, <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/Form/1010EZ-fillable.pdf>, or 10-10EZR form, <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/Form/1010EZR-fillable.pdf>, or call to have the form mailed to you. Have the Veteran complete, sign, and mail their application to their local VA Medical Center or clinic, <https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isFlash=0>.
- In Person: Your client can visit the VA Medical Center or clinic, <https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isFlash=0>, nearest them to apply for enrollment or if already enrolled, to update their information in person.
- Guide: You can download the general 'Veterans Health Benefits Guide' for 2012 at <https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhbh/>.

#### **BENEFITS INFORMATION**

For information on general benefits you can download the “Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents & Survivors” for 2011 at [https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book.asp](https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp).

#### **ADDITIONAL TIPS**

Health Benefits are different for each Veteran. While all enrolled Veterans have access to VA’s comprehensive benefits package, certain benefits (for example, dental care) may vary from individual to individual, depending on each Veteran’s unique eligibility status.

While some Veterans may qualify for enrollment and cost-free (no VA copayments) health care services based on a compensable, service-connected condition or disability (any condition found to be related to military service), or other qualifying factor, most Veterans will be asked to complete a financial assessment as part of their enrollment application process (known as a means test). This financial assessment or means test is based on the Veteran, spouse, and dependent children’s previous year gross household income and net worth, which is used to determine his or her eligibility for VA health care benefits, co-pay responsibility for VA health care, and/or prescription medication.

