VETERANS HEALTH CARE BENEFITS OVERVIEW
Defining a Veteran for VA Health Care Benefits

- A veteran is a person who served in the active military, naval or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.

- Former Reservists may be eligible for VA health care benefits if they served full-time and for conflict or combat time operational or support (excludes training) purposes.

- Former National Guard members may be eligible for care or enrollment if mobilized by a Federal order.
Veterans with Honorable, General or Under Honorable Conditions character of discharge are eligible for VA health care benefits as long as minimum duty requirements are met.

Veterans given Other than Honorable (OTH) discharges and those upgraded from OTH to General require VARO review and decision before routine care may be provided.
Persons enlisting in the Armed Forces after 9/7/80 (enlisted), or who entered on active duty after 10/16/81, are not eligible for VHA benefits unless they completed:

- 24 months continuous active service, or
- the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty
Excluded from the Minimum Duty Requirements

38 USC 5303A – Minimum active duty requirements do not apply to persons discharged or released from active duty for:

- Early out
  -- 21 of 24 month tour
- Hardship
- Disability that was incurred or aggravated in line of duty Or veterans with compensable SC disability
Medical Benefits Package (Standard Benefits)

- VA’s medical benefits package provides the following health care services to all enrolled veterans
Medical Benefits Package (Standard Benefits)

Preventive Care Services
- Immunizations
- Physical Examinations
- Health Care Assessments
- Screening Tests
- Health Education Programs
Medical Benefits Package (Standard Benefits)

Ambulatory (Outpatient) Diagnostic and Treatment Services

- Emergency outpatient care in VA facilities
- Medical
- Surgical (including reconstructive/plastic surgery as a result of disease or trauma)
- Chiropractic Care
- Mental Health
- Bereavement Counseling
- Substance Abuse
Medical Benefits Package
(Standard Benefits)

Hospital (Inpatient) Diagnostic and Treatment

- Emergency inpatient care in VA facilities
- Medical
- Surgical (including reconstructive/plastic surgery as a result of disease or trauma)
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
Medical Benefits Package
(Standard Benefits)

Medications and Supplies
- Prescription medications
- Over-the-counter medications
- Medical and surgical supplies
Veteran Beneficiary Travel Program
Basic Veteran Beneficiary Travel (BT) Eligibility Overview

If a Veteran meets the criteria below, he/she may be eligible for mileage reimbursement or special mode transport in association with obtaining VA health care services.

Veteran Qualifies If:

1. Veteran has a service-connection (SC) rating of 30 percent or more, or
2. Veteran is traveling for treatment of a SC condition, or
3. Veteran receives a VA pension, or
4. Veteran’s income does not exceed the maximum annual VA pension rate, or
5. Veteran is traveling for a scheduled compensation or pension examination
Definition of Non VA Care: Services provided to Veterans in non-VA medical facilities at VA expense.

Basic Provisions:
- Non-VA Care may be authorized in advance when VA services are unavailable or cannot be economically provided.
Non VA Care continued

- Non-VA facility care is not considered permanent status for a veteran.

Fee Programs:

- Outpatient Medical
- Non-VA Hospital
- Pharmacy
- Dental
- Unauthorized Claims
- Mill Bill
Non VA Care (Fee Basis)

Unauthorized – VA may authorize non–VA services for Veterans in emergent situations when they meet these criteria:

- Care is emergent
- The condition treated is SC or the Veteran is rated P&T
- VA facilities are unavailable

Mill Bill – NSC Veterans may be eligible when:

- Care is emergent
- Treated in a VA facility within the past 24 months
- No other insurance coverage
Points of Contact

Business Office
1–800–329–8387, dial 1 and extension 76542

Non VA Call Center
1–800–329–8387, dial 1 and extension 64545

Travel
1–800–329–8387, dial 1 and extension 62120
For additional information on Health Care Benefits

For the latest Veterans Health Benefits Guide, please go to the following link:
http://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/resources/epublications.asp