

Veteran Eligibility

For the purposes of VA health benefits and services, a person who served in the active military service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable is a Veteran. If you served in the active military service and were separated under any condition other than dishonorable, you may qualify for VA health care benefits.

Current and former members of the Reserves or National Guard who were called to active duty by a federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty may be eligible for VA health benefits as well. Reserves or National Guard members with active duty for training purposes only **DO NOT** meet the basic eligibility requirement.

Veterans who enlisted after September 7, 1980, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible. This minimum duty requirement may not apply to Veterans who were discharged for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, for a hardship or “early out,” or those who served prior to September 7, 1980.

Priority Group 1:

Veterans with VA-rated service-connected disabilities 50% or more disabling;
Veterans determined by VA to be unemployable due to service-connected conditions

Priority Group 2: Veterans with VA-rated service-connected disabilities 30% or 40% disabling

Priority Group 3:

Veterans who are Former Prisoners of War (POWs)
Veterans awarded a Purple Heart medal
Veterans whose discharge was for a disability that was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty
Veterans with VA-rated service-connected disabilities 10% or 20% disabling
Veterans awarded special eligibility classification under Title 38, U.S.C., § 1151, "benefits for individuals disabled by treatment or vocational rehabilitation"
Veterans awarded the Medal Of Honor (MOH)

Priority Group 4:

Veterans who are receiving aid and attendance or housebound benefits from VA
Veterans who have been determined by VA to be catastrophically disabled

Priority Group 5:

Nonservice-connected Veterans and non-compensable service-connected Veterans rated 0% disabled by VA with annual income below the VA's and geographically (based on your resident zip code) adjusted income limits
Veterans receiving VA pension benefits or Veterans eligible for Medicaid programs

Priority Group 6:

Compensable 0% service-connected Veterans
Veterans exposed to Ionizing Radiation during atmospheric testing or during the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Project 112/SHAD participants
Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam between January 9,1962 and May 7,1975
Veterans of the Persian Gulf War who served between August 2, 1990 and November 11, 1998
Veterans who served on active duty at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987
Currently enrolled Veterans and new enrollees who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998 and those who were discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003, are eligible for the enhanced benefits for five years post discharge.

Priority Group 7: Veterans with gross household income below the geographically-adjusted income limits (GMT) for their resident location and who agree to pay copays

Priority Group 8: Veterans with gross household income above the VA and the geographically-adjusted income limits for their resident location and who agrees to pay copays and meet the financial criteria. Some Veteran grandfathered in before 2005.

BASED ON INCOME YEAR 2020

Veteran with:

0 dependents

1 dependents

For each additional dependent: \$2,351.

VA Priority Group 8 National Means Test

\$37,599 or less

\$44,106 or less

Health Benefits Copay Rates for 2021

MEDICATIONS: Effective 1 Jan 2020.

No Copay: Veterans in Priority Group 1

\$5.00 Copay: Veterans in Priority Groups 2-8, for each 30 day or less supply of medication (Tier 1-Preferred Generics) for treatment of a non-service connected condition.

\$8.00 Copay: Veterans in Priority Groups 2-8, for each 30-day or less supply of medication (Tier 2 - Non-Preferred Generics & some OTC) for treatment of non-service connected conditions.

\$11.00 Copay: Veterans in Priority Groups 2-8, for each 30-day or less supply of medication (Tier 3 - Brand Name) for treatment of non-service connected conditions. *Veterans in Priority Groups 2-8 are limited to \$700 annual cap.*

OUTPATIENT SERVICES: No Copay Priority Groups 1-5. Priority Groups 7-8 copays:

\$15 Copay per visit: Basic Care Services provided by a primary care clinician. (does not apply if in priority group 6 and treated for a service connected disability).

\$50 Copay per visit: Specialty Care Services provided by a clinical specialist (such as surgeon, radiologist, audiologist, optometrist, cardiologist, specialty tests – MRI, CAT Scan, etc.).

INPATIENT SERVICES: No Copay Priority Groups 1-5. Priority Groups 6, 7& 8 should verify rates with the VA Eligibility Office.

2020 URGENT CARE COPAY RATES (Civilian Contracted Facilities)

Priority Group 1-5: \$0 No copay for first 3 visits in each calendar year/\$30. Copay for each additional visit in calendar year

Priority Group 6: If related to a condition that's covered by a special authority*: \$0 (no copay) for first 3 visits/\$30. Copay each additional visit in calendar year. If not related \$30. Copay for ALL visits in calendar year.

Priority Group 7-8: \$30 copay for ALL visits in each calendar year

OTHER ASSOCIATED BENEFITS:

TRAVEL PAY: If Disability Rating is 30% or higher-Round trip mileage reimbursement to VA medical appointments. If rating is 0%-20% - reimbursement for Service Connected appointments only.

DENTAL CARE: Must be rated at 100% or compensated at the 100% rate due to Individual Unemployability

LONG TERM NURSING HOME LEVEL CARE: Must be rated at 70% or higher. Any medical condition qualifies. Care will be provided by a VA healthcare facility or a private facility under VA Contract.

VA HEALTH ID CARD: Used for VA Health care check-in for appointments and apply for mileage reimbursement at the kiosks. Also can be used for proof of Veteran status for Veteran discounts. Also as of 2020: If you have a Service Connected Disability of 0% - 100% this ID Card will allow you on military installations to use the Exchange/PX and Commissary.

VA HEALTH POWER OF ATTORNEY & ADVANCE DIRECTIVE: Make sure you have this on file with your VA health facility so if your family members needs to speak to your physician they will be able to.