VA Healthcare Benefits:

Veterans Service Center

Who is a Veteran?

- Served in the active military
- Discharged or released under honorable conditions

including

- Former or current Reservists and National Guardsman if activated or mobilized by Executive order AND served for the full period for which they were called (excludes training purposes)

Basic Veteran Statuses

- **Non service-connected**: Veteran has no injuries or illnesses that incurred or were aggravated by their military service
- **Service-connected**: Veteran has a disability that was determined to have been incurred or aggravated by their military service

Establishing Eligibility

To apply for VA health care

- **Application for Health Benefits – VA Form 10-10EZ**
- **May apply**
  - **In person at VA clinic or medical center**
  - **By submitting a completed application to a VA clinic or medical center**
  - **Online at www.va.gov/healtheligibility**

Note: Appreciate DD214 with application but not required

Enrollment Portable

- **Veterans generally must be enrolled to receive VA Health Care which assures comprehensive health care services availability**

- **Enrollment allows health care benefits to become completely portable throughout the entire VA system**

Enrollment Portable – cont'd

- Enrolled veterans will not have to repeat application process

- Veterans traveling or spending time away from their primary treatment facility

VA Health Care Enrollment System

The Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Reform Act was enacted 10/1/96

Law required implementation of an annual enrollment system to ensure treatment is timely and acceptable

- **Enrollment is managed in accordance with 8 specified priorities, with 1 being the highest priority**
- **A standard Medical Benefits Package is available to all enrollees**

Enrollment Priority Groups
PG1 to PG8

Priority Group 1 - 3

PG 1 - Veterans with Service-Connected disabilities rated 50% or more disabling or Unemployable due to a VA SC condition

PG 2 - Service-Connected 30% or 40%

PG 3 - Service-Connected 10-20%, Purple Heart, Medal of Honor recipients, former POW's

Priority Group 4 -5

PG 4 - Veterans receiving Aid & Attendance or Housebound, or determined by VHA to be catastrophically disabled

PG 5 - NSC & 0% SC non-compensable veterans with income below VA pension level, in receipt of a VA Pension/or eligible for Medicaid benefits

Priority Group 6

- Compensable 0% service-connected veterans
- Agent Orange Exposure – either in Korea(1968 or 69) and Vietnam
- Veterans exposed to ionizing radiation during atmospheric testing or during the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- Any other recognized Environmental exposures

Priority Group 6 – cont'd

- Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998 - including:
- Persian Gulf War Veterans – activated National Guardsman or Reservists – are eligible for enhanced benefits for 5 years post discharge

Priority Group 7

- **Veterans who agree to specified copays with income and/or net worth above the VA income threshold and income below the Geographic Means Test (GMT) income thresholds**

Priority Group 8

- **Veterans who agree to specified copays with income and/or net worth above the VA Income threshold and the GMT thresholds**
  - **Subpriority a: Noncompensable 0% service-connected veterans enrolled as of January 16, 2003 and who have remained enrolled since then**
  - **Subpriority c: Nonservice-connected veterans enrolled as of January 16, 2003 and who have remained enrolled since that date**
  - **Subpriority e: Noncompensable 0% service-connected veterans applying for enrollment after January 16, 2003 (NOT eligible if over income threshold)**
  - **Subpriority g:: Non service connected veterans that are NOT eligible for care (based on income)**

What am I eligible for?

Preventive Care Services

- **Immunizations**
- **Physicals Examinations (including eye and hearing examinations)**
- **Healthcare Assessments**
- **Screening Tests**
- **Health Education Programs**

Ambulatory (Outpatient /Inpatient) Diagnostic and Treatment Services

- Medical
- Surgical (including reconstructive/plastic surgery as a result of disease or trauma)
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse

Limited Benefits

- Ambulance Services
- Dental Care (VADIP Program)
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Eyeglasses
- Hearing Aids
- Home Health Care
- Non-VA Health Care Services

General Exclusions

- Abortions and abortion counseling
- Cosmetic Surgery
- Gender alteration
- Health club or spa membership
- In-vitro fertilization
- Drugs and medical devices not approved by the FDA
- Medical care for incarcerated veterans
- Special private duty nursing

Non-VA Emergency Care Benefit

The non-VA Emergency Care benefit applies to situations in which:

- A delay in getting immediate medical attention would be hazardous to health or life; and
- Veteran was unable to reach either a VA health care facility or a facility that routinely cares for VA patients under contract
- Safety net for veterans who have no other health insurance
- To qualify, veteran must be:
    - Enrolled in VA health care system
    - Seen by a VA health care provider within 2 years
    - Carry no health insurance coverage

What do I have to pay?

Copayment Exemptions

- Catastrophically Disabled
- Former POWs and Purple Heart recipients
- Service-connected veterans 50% or more
- Veterans service-connected less than 50% have to make copayment for medications

Copayments
continuation

- All others – payment is based on their financial ability to pay for their care
- Must complete Financial Assessment - Means Test
- Income is above $31,978(if single) $38,374(if married)

COPAYMENTS
continuation

- Outpatient Primary Care Visits - $15.00 each visit
- Outpatient Sub-Specialty Visits - $50.00 each visit
- Inpatient Care per diem (hospital care) - $10.00 per day
- Inpatient Care - $1290.00 for first 90 days
- Inpatient Care per diem (nursing home) - $5.00 per day

Medication Copayment

- Generally outpatient veterans in Priority Groups 2-6 are charged $8.00 copayments for each 30 day or less supply of medication provided by VA for **NSC** condition. **Priority Group 7& 8 pay $9.00**
- Amount of copayments payable in a calendar year is capped at $960 for priority groups 2-6. No cap for priority groups 7 and 8

Health Insurance

- Veterans can maintain private health insurance and Medicare or Medicaid
- VA obligated to bill health insurance carriers for care of non-service connected conditions
- Collections help supplement funding

Stratton VAMC and CBOC's

Stratton VAMC – Albany

Community Based Outpatient Clinics – (primary care & limited behavioral health treatment)

- Bainbridge
- Catskill
- Clifton Park
- Saranac Lake/Westport
- Fonda
- Glens Falls
- Kingston
- Malone
- Plattsburgh
- Schenectady
- Troy

VA Health Care Upstate New York

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS — VETERANS INTEGRATED SERVICE NETWORK 2

QUESTIONS?