

VA HEALTHCARE BENEFITS SUMMARY

The VA has a comprehensive healthcare program. Unfortunately, not all Veterans are eligible for the healthcare program. Certain restrictions apply when you are considering choosing VA Healthcare.

The VA prioritizes groups from Group 1 to Group 8. Priority Group 1 includes Veterans who have a 50% or more Service Connected Disability. Priority Group 2 includes Veterans who are 30% or 40% Service Connected. Priority Group 3 includes POWs, Purple Heart Veterans, Medal of Honor Veterans, Veterans who are 20% Service Connected, or who were discharged for a disability that was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty. Priority Group 4 includes Veterans who are receiving Aid and Attendance or Housebound Benefits, or who have been determined by the VA to be catastrophically disabled. Priority Group 5 includes non service connected veterans and noncompensable service connected Veterans rated 0% disabling by VA with annual income and or net worth below the VA national income thresholds. This group also includes veterans who are eligible for Medicaid programs. Priority Group 6 includes Veterans who served in Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 and Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia Theater of operations from August 2, 1990 through November 11, 1998. Also included are those veterans who were exposed to ionizing radiation during atmospheric testing or during the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998 can receive healthcare for five years post discharge. After those five years, Veterans will be assigned to the highest Priority Group they qualify for.



Priority Group 7 includes Veterans with gross income above the VA national income threshold, and below the geographically-adjusted income threshold (GMT) for their resident location. Priority Group 8 is a priority that the VA looks at closely. Income is considered a major factor and they are currently not enrolling high income Priority Group 8 Veterans.

There are two major VA Medical Centers in our area that Veterans can go to. We have the VA Medical Center in Asheville and the VA Medical Center in Salisbury. We also have a VA Outpatient Clinic located on Tate Blvd. in Hickory.

Once enrolled in VA Healthcare, ID cards can be issued through the Medical Center. There are no other Veteran ID cards currently.

For more information visit www.va.gov.

MAY 2013

FREE TRANSPORTATION FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

Homelessness in Veterans is a growing problem in our area as well as all over the country. The VA Medical Center in Salisbury is working to help these Veterans by offering free transportation to VA appointments and also helping them enroll in VA programs.

Starting April 4th, the VA Medical Center from Salisbury will pick up Homeless Veterans needing rides to their VA appointments. A bus will be available on the first and third Thursday of every month. Veterans will need to be at the Grace House in Hickory by 7:30 a.m. and be signed up prior to that day. The Grace House is located at 102 1st Ave NE. The VA will work with these homeless Veterans by trying to schedule their appointments on one of these two days.

Please visit the Veterans Helping Veterans support group that meets every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. at the Grace House. This group is made up of Veterans from all around our county who have a desire to help each other. This includes homeless veterans and all other veterans who are in need of support and help.

For Veterans who cannot make it on either of the two days offered by the VA Medical Center, Greenway Transportation has limited rides to the VA Medical Centers and the Clinics. Greenway can be reached by calling 828-464-9444.





Center for Women Veterans

Congress passed legislation in 1994 authorizing the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish a Center for Women Veterans.

VA modified its motto to be more inclusive of women Veterans. The motto now reads, “To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan...” by serving and honoring the men and women who are America’s Veterans.

Benefits for Women Veterans

- Health Promotion and Disease prevention
- Primary Care
- Hormone Replacement Therapy
- Breast Exams
- Gynecological Care
- Maternity
- Limited Fertility
- Acute Medical/surgical
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Mental Health
- Rehab
- Long term Care
- Military Sexual Assault Treatment
- Compensation/Pension Disability
- Education
- Vocational Rehab
- Life Insurance
- Home Loans

The Center collaborates with other federal and state agencies on issues related to women Veterans, disseminates materials on VA benefits programs and health care services, and conducts outreach to make women Veterans aware of these services.

The Center’s website www.va.gov/womenvet offers women Veterans direct access to the Center where they can express concerns, ask questions and provide feedback about VA benefits and services.

The Center’s mission is to monitor and coordinate VA’s administration of health care and benefits services, and programs for women Veterans. They also serve as an advocate for cultural transformation in recognizing the service and contributions of women Veterans and women in the military.