

Veteran Health Administration Eligibility Orientation

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Who is Eligible?

- Only the Veteran is eligible for VA Health Care
 - Dependents, Caregivers, and ChampVA are not eligible
 - Dependents and Caregivers potentially have monetary benefits through Veteran's Benefit Administration
- How is Eligibility determined:
 - Does the Veteran meet the criteria for VA Healthcare?
 - Are they automatically qualified?
 - If not automatically qualified, do they meet the income standards?
 - If not eligible, do they have a Mental Health condition and can qualify under those authorities

Who is Eligible? – Are they a Veteran?

- **Active Duty Military Service** (minimum duty requirement)
 - Veterans *before Sept. 7, 1980* must have any Active Duty military service
 - Veterans *after Sept. 7, 1980* must have 2 years of Active Duty military service
- **Reserve or National Guard Military Service**
 - Veterans who have **Combat Veteran** service after *Nov. 11, 1998*
 - Within 5 years of their Active Duty discharge date for the period in which they served a combat tour to apply for healthcare.
- **Active Duty Training (ACDUTRA)** does not count towards Active Duty military service
 - National Guard, Reserves, and AGR (Active Guard Reserve)

Who is Eligible?

- **Veterans must have an Honorable Discharge or equivalent to be eligible**
 - Other than Honorable or Dishonorable discharges can be reviewed by VBA
- **Automatically eligible (no income requirements)**
 - **Service Connected Veterans, POWs, Purple Heart Recipients, Veterans receiving a VA Pension, and special: Agent Orange, Southwest Asia, etc.**
- **If not automatically eligible, must meet income standards**
 - **Determined via an Income Means Test**
 - Current national income for single: ~\$32,000/year or married ~\$38,000/year
 - Geographic amount can be higher based on Zip Code
 - Hardships can be requested
- **If determined eligible: Veteran placed in a Priority Group**
 - **All medical benefits are available**
 - **Copays may be required based upon Priority Group**

Mental Health Specific Eligibilities

- Tentative Eligibility (38 CFR § 17.34)
- Presumptive Eligibility for Psychosis and other Mental Illness (38 USC § 1702; 38 CFR § 17.109)
- Ineligible Former Servicemembers can be treated only as consistent with VA's Humanitarian Care authority for emergencies (38 USC § 1784)
- The determination of eligibility for benefits for patients with emergent conditions can be made after the initial examination and essential treatment.

Tentative Eligibility

- Former Servicemembers with OTH administrative discharges can be treated under these conditions:
 - Former Servicemember has an OTH discharge and;
 - They present seeking mental health care in emergency circumstances for a condition the former Servicemember asserts is related to their military service
- 90-day episode of care while eligibility is determined
- A second 90-day episode of care can be authorized
- Outcome: Veteran will be placed in Priority Group or be billed for healthcare received

Presumptive Eligibility for Psychosis and other Mental Illness

- A former Servicemember develops psychosis or other Mental illness:
 - Within two years after discharge from Active Duty and;
 - Before the end of the defined conflict – Persian Gulf War conflict has not ended per VA standards.
- Diagnosis determination is done by VHA Clinician
- No minimum service requirement under this authority
- Former Servicemembers are not required to have served in the Theater of Combat Operations