**How to Sign Up for VA Health Benefits**

**What:** Signing up for VA Health Benefits

**Service Officer Notes:** I have been steadily encouraging all of you to go down and sign up for VA Health Benefits. Please don’t say, “I don’t think I qualify” as that is not the right way to approach it. The best way is to apply and find out. Also, those of you who have other health insurance should apply and see if you qualify. Even if you never use it, you will have some added insurance in case any other of your health insurance options disappear abruptly or don’t accept the level of care you need.

To understand who qualifies, I have pasted the VA Priority Groups below. **This is only a guide as there are so many “caveats” to each qualification that you must see the VA Enrollment Rep to be sure!!!**

**Web Sites:**

**VA:** [**https://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/apply/veterans.asp**](https://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/apply/veterans.asp)

**Who *May* Qualifiy:**

Any Veteran

**Information:** There are several different ways to apply for VA Benefits:

**Option #1**: Apply in person (**Preferred Option**):

Every third Friday of the month the VA has open enrollment at the:

CBOC (Community Based Outpatient Clinic)

4328 Page Ave, Michigan Center, 49234.

Ph. 517-764-3609

It is done at a first come, first served basis from 0830-1530hrs in the basement. Just follow the signs as you enter the building. There is no “good” time to show up as they have no way of knowing folks will show up.

You will need:

* a copy of both sides of your current insurance card (including Medicare or Medicaid)
* a copy of your DD214, 'Armed Forces Report of Transfer or Discharge'
* (Purple Heart recipients only) a copy of your award letter if 'Purple Heart' is *not* noted on your DD214
* Picture ID

**Option #2**: Apply in person

The VA has open enrollment on a daily basis at the:

VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System
Health Benefits Unit (11U)
2215 Fuller Road
Arbor, Michigan 48105

To speak with someone in our Health Benefits Unit, please call (734) 845-5275 or use our toll-free number (800) 361-8387 and press 55275.

It is done at a first come, first served basis from 0800-1530hrs

You will need:

* a copy of both sides of your current insurance card (including Medicare or Medicaid)
* a copy of your DD214, 'Armed Forces Report of Transfer or Discharge'
* (Purple Heart recipients only) a copy of your award letter if 'Purple Heart' is *not* noted on your DD214
* Picture ID

**Option #3**: Mail the application in.

Go to this website for an explanation on sending it in by mail:

<https://www.annarbor.va.gov/patients/eligibility.asp>

**Option #4**: Online Application.

Go to this website for an explanation on the online application process:

<https://www.annarbor.va.gov/patients/eligibility.asp>

Below are the Priority Groups (Qualifications) for VA health Care. **This is only a guide as there are so many “caveats” to each qualification that you must see the VA Enrollment Rep to be sure!!!**

Priority Group 1

* Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated by VA as 50% or more disabling.
* Veterans determined by VA to be unemployable due to service-connected conditions.
* Veterans who have been awarded the Medal of Honor (MOH).

Priority Group 2

* Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated by VA as 30% or 40% disabling.

Priority Group 3

* Veterans who are former Prisoners of War (POWs).
* Veterans who have been awarded a Purple Heart medal.
* Veterans whose discharge was for a disability that was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.
* Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated by VA as 10% or 20% disabling.
* Veterans who have been awarded special eligibility classification under Title 38, U.S.C., § 1151, "benefits for individuals disabled by treatment or vocational rehabilitation." (Title 38 U.S.C. Section 1151 allows VA to pay compensation for death or disability "as if service-connected." Don't be confused with this subtle difference. The disability is not considered service-connected. Under Section 1151, benefits may be paid for Injuries incurred or aggravated while receiving VA-sponsored medical treatment or Injuries incurred or aggravated while pursuing a course of vocational rehabilitation under 38 U.S.C. Chapter 31 or participating in compensated work therapy under 38 U.S.C. 1718. If eligibility is established under Section 1151, the disability is considered service-connected for payment purposes ONLY.)

Priority Group 4

* Veterans who receive aid and attendance or housebound benefits from VA.
* Veterans who have been determined by VA to be catastrophically disabled. (Based on a VA clinical decision, Veterans are considered to be Catastrophically Disabled when they have a severely disabling injury, disorder or disease that permanently compromises their ability to carry out the activities of daily living. The disability must be of such a degree that the Veteran requires personal or mechanical assistance to leave home or bed, or require constant supervision to avoid physical harm to themselves or others.)

Priority Group 5

* Veterans with a nonservice-connected or non-compensable service-connected disability and Veterans rated by VA as 0% disabled and who have an annual income below the VA’s geographically-adjusted income limit (based on your resident ZIP code).
* Veterans receiving VA pension benefits.
* Veterans eligible for Medicaid programs.

Priority Group 6

* + Veterans with a compensable 0% service-connected disability.
	+ Veterans exposed to ionizing radiation during atmospheric testing or during the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
	+ Project 112/SHAD participants.
	+ Veterans of the Mexican border period or of World War I
	+ Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975. (Boots on ground)
	+ 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

**Note:** At the end of this enhanced enrollment priority group placement time period, Veterans will be assigned to the highest PG for which their status at that time qualifies.

Priority Group 7

* Veterans with gross household income below the geographically-adjusted VA income limit for their resident location and who agree to pay copayments. (<http://nationalincomelimits.vaftl.us/CustomGMTMTThresholds> )

Priority Group 8

* Veterans with gross household incomes above the VA income limits and the geographically- adjusted income limits for their resident location, and who agree to pay copayments. (<http://nationalincomelimits.vaftl.us/CustomGMTMTThresholds> )

**Veterans eligible for enrollment:** Veterans who are rated with a non-compensable 0% service-connected and are:

* **Sub priority a:** enrolled as of January 16, 2003, and who have remained enrolled since that date and/or were placed in this sub priority due to changed eligibility status.
* **Sub priority b:** enrolled on or after June 15, 2009, and whose income exceeds the current VA income limits or the geographically-adjusted VA income limits by 10% or less.

**Veterans eligible for enrollment:** Veterans who are nonservice-connected and:

* **Sub priority c:** enrolled as of January 16, 2003, and who have remained enrolled since that date and/or were placed in this sub priority due to changed eligibility status.
* **Sub priority d:** enrolled on or after June 15, 2009, and whose income exceeds the current VA income limit and geographic income limit by 10% or less.

**Veterans not eligible for enrollment:** Veterans not meeting the criteria above:

* **Sub priority e**: non-compensable 0% service-connected (eligible for care of their service-connected condition only).
* **Sub priority g:** nonservice-connected.

**POCs:** None