

Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

RCC Fact Sheet



What is the Veterans Health Administration (VHA)?

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care includes preventive care services, inpatient and outpatient treatment, prescription services and a women's health program, in addition to screening exams for depression, substance abuse, PTSD, military sexual trauma and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). VHA services also include a cost-free, one-time treatment of dental conditions for recently separated veterans who served for 90 days or more, apply within 180 days of separation, and have documentation to indicate that the necessary dental care was not provided within 90 days of release or discharge.

Which population does this program serve?

VA provides enhanced enrollment opportunities and five years of cost-free health care to veterans who served in a theater of combat operations for any injury or illness associated with this service, including Reservists and National Guard members who served in combat any time after November 11, 1998, and veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. Those who postpone applying for VA health services for more than five years after discharge will have the same eligibility for enrollment and health services as other veterans, and may be charged a co-pay. In addition, veterans who experience non-service-connected illnesses and/or injuries post-deployment may be charged a co-pay at a VA hospital for treatment of those conditions.

How can this program help wounded warriors and their families?

Quick and efficient medical care is often one of the greatest needs experienced by wounded warriors and their families. It can also be one of the most expensive needs to meet. The VHA allows recovering Service members and veterans to receive high-quality medical care at no or very little cost,

relieving the financial pressure of recovery. In addition, VA clinicians are especially trained to evaluate combat-related illnesses or injuries and health concerns. Veterans are encouraged to enroll whether they need immediate health care or not, as that enrollment will continue past the post-discharge five-year period.

How can this program help Recovery Care Coordinators?

Understanding the health care services provided by the VHA will help Recovery Care Coordinators (RCCs) lead their recovering Service members and families to the specific care they need. Accessing these services at no or reduced cost from the VA will also help RCCs, recovering Service members and families meet financial goals and experience financial stability throughout the Continuum of Care. A full knowledge of the services provided by VHA allows RCCs to ensure that recovering Service members and families are taking advantage of all the health services available to them, now and into the future.

Where can I find more information?

Veterans Integrated Services Network (VISNs): The U.S. is divided into 21 VISNs (<http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/division.asp?dnum=1>), which are regional systems of care working together to better meet local health care needs and provide greater access to care. RCCs can find local and regional contact information at the VISN Web site listed above.

For questions about VA health services, call 1-877-222-VETS (1-877-222-8387) or visit www.va.gov.