



Town of Sharon
Department of Veteran
Services
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Subject: U.S. Dept of Veteran Affairs Consideration

Dear Veteran,

Other data related to veterans can be read on Town of Sharon Veteran department website, <https://www.townofsharon.net/veterans>.

U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs (VA) has three elements which operate independent of each other based on their mission and authority. When needed and requested data may be communicated between each. Full data file for each veteran is not retained or viewed without authority by each element of the VA.

Elements of the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) have their own criteria, directives etc. They are veterans' benefit, veterans' hospital care, and veteran's cemetery.

Each VA element must receive honorable discharge document & issued by the U.S. military department person who served. Eligibility for benefits/care/buried is then determined using applicable directives. The directives must comply with federal legislation.

All agencies require the veteran to provide them with needed documents, justification, and proof. On occasion each agency gives assistance or advise veteran on how to obtain what is needed.

Some benefits require war time service.

Veterans benefit element awards compensation and justification for veteran health care to provide care for service-connected disability. Veteran disability award has to be traced to in service event. Therefore, specific proof is needed.

VA benefits can award a pension which includes aid and attendance based on low income and no linked service-connected disability. Veteran and widow may qualify based on congressional threshold and other limitations such as age for benefits.

VA can award dependent/survivor disability and indemnity compensation when service member died from service-related disability.

VA benefit also administers other benefits not related to service disability, such as home loan guaranty.

VA benefit can authorize dependents to apply and receive Champ VA which is an insurance for health care such as Medicaid. Provider of care has to accept Champ VA same as Medicaid pricing and directives. Not all doctors accept Medicaid or Champ VA. There is no premium paid by person(dependent). If dependent is eligible for Medicare then Champ VA is a supplemental coverage. VA awards Champ VA to dependents of 100% rated veteran by the V.A. Benefits office.

Veterans' health care element of the U.S. Dept of Veteran Affairs (VA) primary mission is to treat medical disability acknowledged as service connected by the VA benefits office. Treatment for the specific disability is not charged to the veteran.

Veteran enrolled at the VA hospital system may be allowed to receive treatment for a non-service-connected illness. This treatment, if acceptable to the VA hospital, is provided at a cost to the veteran. Treatment and charges must comply with VA directive guidelines. There charges are for outpatient and inpatient as well as medications.

Low-income veterans meeting criteria for the location without VA documented service-connected disability may be accepted by the local VA hospital to receive "space available" category medical care based on VA guidelines. The veteran is charged for treatment, medication and other fee based on VA directives.

Priority for treatment is given to service-connected disability. VA benefit rating also has influence on category treatment classification of veteran.

VA hospital care cannot bill Medicare or other U.S. Government agency for treatment charged to the veteran. Veteran has to pay the VA when billed.

VA may bill an independent health insurance company for treatment when the veteran has medical insurance. Each case is different therefore veteran is nonservice-connected treatment needs to contact VA billing about what veteran must pay VA when the veteran is charged.

VA hospital does not provide medical care/treatment to spouse or children dependents. VA benefit may have compensation allowed for those who meet those criteria.

VA cemetery may provide burial plot with head stone. Local VA Cemetery is Bourne National Cemetery in Bourne, MA. VA does not pay for veteran funeral. Veteran/estate must pay local funeral home for services which require delivery of remains to a cemetery. VA benefits office may address an allowance amount for death benefit independent of VA cemetery. Suggest veteran retain a file with all VA correspondence, funeral document, desires and educate appropriate person in advance.

In Massachusetts each community has a veteran service officer who can advise, clarify, and aid veteran on process.

Further data can be obtained on other documents or websites. Each state has their own veteran allowances which are not administered by the U.S. Dept of Veteran Affairs.

Very truly yours,

Paul R. Bergeron
Director Veteran Services