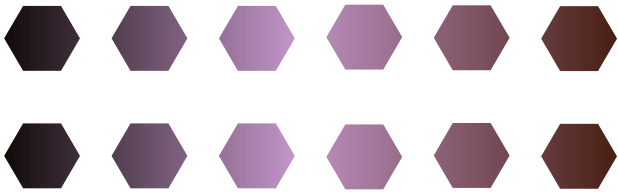


Spina Bifida Health Care Benefits Program



Overview

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides monetary allowances, vocational training and rehabilitation, and reimburses for health care provided to certain Korea and Vietnam Veterans' birth children who have been diagnosed with spina bifida. For the purpose of this program, spina bifida is defined as all forms or manifestations of spina bifida (except spina bifida occulta).

Effective October 10, 2008, there was a change to Public Law 110-387, Section 408, which outlines the benefits available under the Spina Bifida Health Care Benefits Program. As a result of this change, medical services and supplies for spina bifida beneficiaries are no longer limited to the spina bifida condition.

This program now covers all medically necessary and appropriate health care. VHA's Office of Community Care (VHA CC), in Denver, Colorado, administers the Spina Bifida Health Care Benefits program, including the authorization of benefits and the subsequent processing and payment of claims. Contact us if you have questions.

Applying

Spina Bifida benefits are based on eligibility determinations made by the Denver VA Regional Office (VARO) (Phone: 1-303-914-2900, not toll free).

That office will determine the current level of disability upon receipt of both medical and lay evidence and a completed Application for Spina Bifida Benefits (VA Form 21-0304, http://www.va.gov/vaforms/form_detail.asp?FormNo=21-0304).

The completed form and competent medical evidence should be returned to:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Service Center (339/21)
Box 25126
Denver CO 80225

Once the Denver VARO determines eligibility, including monetary allowance, Spina Bifida awardees (or guardians) are contacted by the VHA CC and registered for health care benefits. VHA CC will then send beneficiaries detailed information addressing covered and non-covered services and supplies, preauthorization requirements and claim filing instructions. Spina Bifida Health Care Benefits Program information can be found on the VHA CC website at: <https://www.va.gov/communitycare>.

Vocational Training

VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service is available if it is reasonably feasible for the eligible child to achieve a vocational goal. The applicant must be a child:

- To whom VA has awarded a monthly allowance and
- For whom VA has determined that achievement of a vocational goal is feasible



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Medical Benefits

Eligibility for VA Spina Bifida Health Care Benefits is limited to:

- A birth child of a Korea Veteran, regardless of age or marital status, who was conceived after the date

on which the Korea Veteran first served in or near the Korean demilitarized zone during the period beginning on September 1, 1967, and ending on August 31, 1971.

- A birth child of a Vietnam Veteran, regardless of age or marital status, who was conceived after the date on which the Vietnam Veteran first entered the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975.

Provider Options

Beneficiaries may select the provider of their choice as long as the provider is an approved health care provider. The provider must be approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Defense TRICARE program, the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, The Joint Commission, or may be a health care provider approved for providing services pursuant to a state license or certificate. A provider is not required to contract with VHA CC; VHA CC does not maintain a list of providers.

In addition to approved private providers, some services may also be obtained from VA health care facilities. Contact the VA in your area to see if they have space available to provide treatment. It's up to the local VA health care facility to decide if they can provide the care you need.

Preauthorization Requirements

Although most health care services and supplies do not require approval in advance (preauthorization), some do.

- Preauthorization is NOT required for routine health care services and supplies.
- Preauthorization IS required for:
 - Attendants
 - Day health care provided as outpatient care
 - Dental services

- Durable medical equipment with a total rental or purchase price in excess of \$2,000
- Homemaker services (must be health related services)
- Outpatient mental health services in excess of 23 visits in a calendar year
- Substance abuse treatment
- Training of family members, guardians and members of the child's household
- Transplantation services
- Travel (other than mileage for local travel) in private automobiles at the General Services Administration rate

Note: When in doubt, contact VHA CC.

Assistance

Eligibility & Application Information

Telephone

VA Regional Office: 1-303-914-2900

Daily 8 a.m.–3 p.m., MST except Wednesday
8 a.m.–11 p.m., MST

Colorado residents can call: 1-800-827-1000

Health Care Benefits Information

Telephone

VHA Office of Community Care:
1-888-820-1786

Email

Inquiry Routing & Information System (IRIS)
<https://iris.custhelp.com/app/ask> or
spina.inq@med.va.gov

FAX

Preauthorizations: 1-303-331-7807

Website

<https://www.va.gov/communitycare/>

Mail

Spina Bifida Health Care Benefits Program
PO Box 469065
Denver CO 80246-9065

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