

# Enrollment & Eligibility in VHA

## Washington County VSO Presentation

### January 20, 2026

The 3 Branches of VA and VHA

How Veterans Apply, Priority Groups and Copayments

TERA & PACT Act

COMPACT Act

Veteran Healthcare Identification Cards (VHIC)

# Department of Veterans Affairs



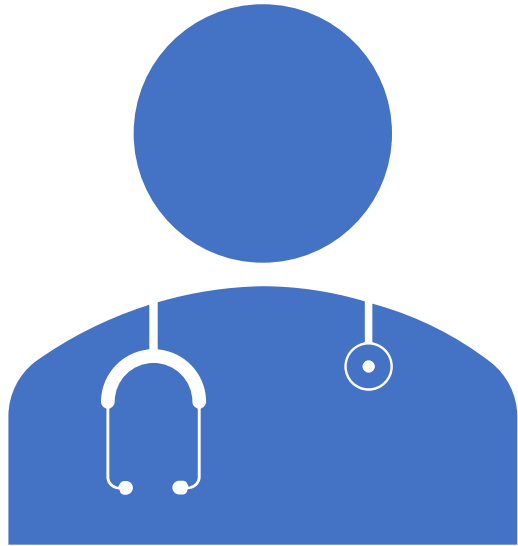
VETERANS HEALTH  
ADMINISTRATION



VETERANS BENEFIT  
ADMINISTRATION



NATIONAL CEMETERY  
ADMINISTRATION



# Veterans Health Administration

- Largest integrated health care system in the United States
- 172 VA Medical Centers
- 1138 outpatient sites
- 9 million Veterans enrolled

# How Veterans Apply for VHA Care

- For first-time applicants, Veterans fill out the **10-10EZ Application**
- For financial/demographic/dependent updates can use **10-10EZR Update Form**
- Verifiable Proof of service
  - DD-214, VBA Service Connection Award Letter or Pension Award Letter, Title 10 Activation for Reservists/National Guard
  - Need honorable discharge & 24 months of continued AD service to be eligible after 1980, only 1 day of AD needed if served prior to 1980
- Previous Years Income to determine Priority Group (PG 1-8)
  - Income from work, property, ranch
  - Out of pocket medical expenses
  - Verified by VHA using SSA & IRS matches
  - Income thresholds are determined based on the National Means Threshold (NMT) & Geographic Means Threshold (GMT)
- **Can call the Health Eligibility Center (HEC) at 1-877-222-8387 (VETS) to apply directly over the phone**

# Priority Groups & Ineligible Veterans

- **Priority Groups 1-7 are eligible for full VHA care**
  - Priority Groups 1-5 have no copayments for medical care, only for medications
  - Can also be determined to be copay exempt for medications based on provided income
- **Priority Groups 6 & 7** have copayments for care & medications
- Priority Group 8c/d – over the income threshold by 10%, but willing to pay copayments associated with care
- **Priority Group 8g** – over income and in **DEFERRED** status  
Unable to receive full VA care until income is provided with next years financial information to determine eligibility
  - Based on the NMT/GMT of the Veteran's Zip Code

## Copayment Requirements by Priority Group

Enrolled Veterans will be assessed copayments for VA health care based on their eligibility and/or income on file in the VA Enrollment System. For care furnished through the Veterans Community Care Program, the same copayment requirements will apply. VA will determine the Veteran's copayment obligation after the service is provided. For information on Copayment Rates, see fact sheet [IB 10-430](#) and Enrollment Priority Groups, see fact sheet [IB 10-441](#).

	Priority Group 1	Priority Group 2	Priority Group 3	Priority Group 4	Priority Group 5	Priority Group 6	Priority Group 7	Priority Group 8	Exceptions (*)
<b>Inpatient Hospital Care</b>	No	No	No	No	No	*Yes	Yes	Yes	No copayment when related to special authority
<b>Outpatient Medical Care</b>	No	No	No	No	No	*Yes	Yes	Yes	No copayment when related to special authority
<b>Medication</b>	No	*Yes	*Yes	No	*Yes	*Yes	Yes	Yes	No copayment when prescribed for service-connected condition; former Prisoner of War (POW); income is below applicable threshold; or when related to special authority
<b>Extended Care Services</b>	No	No	No	*Yes	*Yes	*Yes	Yes	Yes	No copayment when catastrophically disabled and for non-institutional extended care services; income is below applicable threshold; or when related to special authority
<b>Urgent Care (Community Care)</b>	*Yes	*Yes	*Yes	*Yes	*Yes	*Yes	Yes	Yes	No copayment for first 3 visits in a calendar year; or when related to special authority

# Copayment Rates

**Apt w/ Primary Care**

**\$15**

**Apt w/ Specialty Care**

**\$50**

**Labs, Immunizations**

**\$0**

<b>Outpatient Medication Tiers</b>	<b>1-30 Day Supply Copayment</b>	<b>31-60 Day Supply Copayment</b>	<b>61-90 Day Supply Copayment</b>
Tier 1 (Preferred Generics)	\$5	\$10	\$15
Tier 2 (Non-Preferred Generics and some OTC medications)	\$8	\$16	\$24
Tier 3 (Brand Name)	\$11	\$22	\$33

**Note:** The generic name will be printed on the label even if the brand name is dispensed.

# HUD-VASH Eligibility

- **Eligible for HUD-VASH:**
  - Honorable Discharge
  - General Discharge
  - Other than Honorable Discharge (in lieu of court-martial or from a special court-martial)
  - Bad Conduct Discharge (from a special court-martial)
  - Uncharacterized (Entry Level Separation)
  - Undesirable (confirm with Eligibility, must be adjudicated)
- **Ineligible for HUD-VASH:**
  - Dishonorable Discharge
  - Other than Honorable Discharge (from a general court-martial)
  - Bad Conduct Discharge (from a general court-martial)
  - Uncharacterized (from a general court-martial, must be adjudicated)
  - Undesirable (from a general court-martial)
- **Notes:**
  - The minimum duty requirements do not apply.
    - National Guard who are active duty for training (ACDUTRA) only are not eligible for HUD-VASH.
    - To be eligible, they must have been called to active duty under Title 10.
    - Veterans in the Reserves are eligible for HUD-VASH if they are ACDUTRA Only.
  - HUD-VASH eligibility is based on the Veteran's character of discharge from the military and not the VBA adjudication.

# PACT ACT and TERA

- SFC Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022
  - Greatly expanded the eligibilities of Veterans who were exposed to toxic chemicals while serving
  - Yearly Toxic Exposure Risk Activity (TERA) screenings with PCP
  - Presumptive-Positive Service-Connected Disability Claims through VBA
  - Can be verified through various Enrollment Systems, documents, or by HEC Alerts
  - Included now in the updated 10-10EZ and EZR applications
  - All eras of Veterans, from WW2 to now
- Please have Veterans who were previously denied VBA claims to resubmit through their county Veteran Service Offices (VSOs), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFWs) or Regional VBA Offices

# COMPACT Act

The COMPACT Act expands the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) ability to furnish, pay for, or reimburse the cost of emergent suicide care and treatment to enrolled or non-enrolled eligible Veterans at VA or non-VA facilities. This includes transportation costs. An individual is eligible for emergent suicide care if the individual is in an acute suicidal crisis. The term “acute suicidal crisis” means that an individual was determined to be at imminent risk of self-harm by a trained crisis responder or health care provider.

The COMPACT Act requires the VA to provide emergent suicide care at no cost to eligible individuals:

- Acute Suicidal Crisis, and/or
- Up to 30 days of inpatient or residential treatment, and/or
- 90 days of outpatient care

# COMPACT Act

- To qualify under the COMPACT Act, a Veteran must meet one of the following eligibility criteria: Meet [minimum active-duty service requirements](#), or
- Are a former service member with an Other than Honorable (OTH) discharge who:
  - Served more than 100 days in a combat role or in support of a contingency operation, and
  - Was discharged or released from active duty under a condition that is not dishonorable.

Positively screened MST survivors are only eligible for care under the COMPACT Act if they meet the [minimum active-duty service requirements](#).

MST Veterans with an Other than Honorable (OTH) discharge may receive care under the COMPACT Act while they are awaiting Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA) adjudication of their discharge.

The Veteran must be determined to be Honorable for VA Purposes and meet minimum duty requirements to continue to receive COMPACT Act care. Otherwise, the care will end.

- MST Veterans should not be back billed for treatment received while their OTH is being adjudicated.

# Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC)

- Not required to receive care but are helpful when checking in for appointments.
- Lists if you are service-connected but not what % or what disabilities.
- Order one in person in Portland, Salem, Hillsboro, and Vancouver.
- Order one online at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/get-health-id-card/>
- You will need one of these ID types:
  - State-issued driver's license, or
  - U.S. passport, or
  - Federal, state, or local government-issued photo ID showing your name, address, and date of birth

Questions?



# Portland Hospital Enrollment Office – Blayne, Delores, Manny, Lauren & Collette



# Vancouver Campus Enrollment Office – Megan & Jules



# Hillsboro CBOC Enrollment Office- Greg



# Salem CBOC Enrollment Office - Mike

