

Process for Transitioning Veterans Enrolled in Hospice Across Venues of Care

ASSISTING A VETERAN WITH OBTAINING VA BENEFITS AND SERVICES:

What does the VA Offer that may be helpful for Veterans enrolled in hospice?

(For complete list please refer to the Veterans Benefit Manual)

VA benefits and services are in these major categories:

- Compensation
- Pension
- Health Care
- Home Loans
- Life Insurance
- Dependents & Survivors Benefits
- Burial

Who Is Eligible? You may be eligible for VA benefits if you are:

- a veteran
- a veteran's dependent
- a surviving spouse, child or parent of a deceased veteran
- an active duty military service member
- a member of the Reserve or National Guard

Compensation

VA can pay you monthly compensation if you are at least 10% disabled as a result of your military service. **NOTE: If planning to file claim for service connected disability then file claim BEFORE applying for pension.**

Pension

You can receive a monthly pension if you are a wartime veteran with limited income, and you are permanently and totally disabled **or** at least 65 years old. **Time Limits:** There is no time limit to apply for Compensation and Pension benefits.

Health Care

VA provides a number of health care services.

- Hospital, outpatient medical, dental, pharmacy and prosthetic services
- Sexual trauma counseling
- Domiciliary, nursing home, community based residential care
- Specialized health care for women Veterans
- Health and rehabilitation programs for homeless Veterans
- Readjustment counseling
- Alcohol and drug dependency treatment
- Medical evaluation for disorders associated with military service in the Gulf War, or exposure to Agent Orange, radiation, and other environmental hazards

Combat Veterans - VA will provide combat Veterans free medical care for any illness possibly associated with service during a period of hostility for two years from the veteran's release from active duty.

WHERE DO I START?

Is the Veteran enrolled in the VA?

- ◆ No: Go to <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/> and complete the form. Instructions are included for where to send or may be completed online. Veteran will receive instructions on completing enrollment.
- ◆ Yes: Contact your local County Service Officer. Information about local Service Officers can be located three ways:
 1. Contact your local VA regional office to request updated County Service Officer list
 2. Go to <http://www.nvf.org/pages/veteran-service-officers> and click on your state.
 3. Call your local Veteran Service Organizations: AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), American Legion, and/or VFW.

Services a County Service Officers and/or Veteran Service Organization (VSO) Representative May Provide:

- ◆ Advocacy for the Veteran and help identify local community contacts based on the Veteran's era of service and needs.
- ◆ Offer research and advice to Veterans who wish to handle their own claims.
- ◆ Assist Veterans who are filing original claims for compensation and/or pension with the Department of Veterans Affairs and complete the required VA forms on behalf of the claimant.
- ◆ Assist Veterans in reopening claims for service-connected disabilities and complete the required VA forms.
- ◆ Follow up on status of claims filed by Veterans with the VA Regional Office.
- ◆ File Notice of Disagreement with the VA Regional Office if a veteran believes the decision made by the VA was incorrect.
- ◆ Review statements of the case from the VA regarding denials of claim and assist Veterans with the preparation of responses.
- ◆ Assist Veterans or surviving spouses in the preparation of appeals for denial of claims and file the appeals with the local VA Regional Office for forwarding to the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington, D.C.
- ◆ Complete VA Forms other than for original claims.
- ◆ Answer/research telephone inquiries regarding medical, death/burial and other miscellaneous benefits.

What County Service Officer/ VSO Representative will need to know in order to help Veteran:

1. Status of DD214- does Veteran have a copy?
2. Information from the Military History Checklist (Era of Service, branch, etc.)