

VA Caregiver Services

- ** What's Offered?
- ** What's New?
- ** What's The Same?
- ** What Don't We Know?



Two Programs Offered By VA

(1) General Caregiver
Support Services

(2) Primary Caregiver
Support Services



General Caregiver

38 C.F.R. §71.30(a)(2)

“Provides **personal care services** to a **covered Veteran** under this section, even if the individual does not reside with the Veteran.”



“Covered Veteran”

38 C.F.R. §71.30(b)

A Veteran who is:

** Enrolled in VA Healthcare

** Needs **personal care services** because the Veteran is . . .

Unable to perform **an activity of daily living, OR**

Needs supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of an impairment or injury



“Personal Care Services”

38 C.F.R. §71.15

“Care or assistance of another person **necessary** to support the Veteran’s health and well-being, and perform functions **required in everyday living** ensuring the Veteran remains safe from hazards or dangers **incident to [their] daily environment.**”



“Activities of Daily Living”

38 C.F.R. §71.15

Dressing or undressing

Bathing

Grooming “to keep oneself clean and presentable.”

“Frequent adjustment” of a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance that cannot, *because of the disability*, be done without assistance

To be continued. . .



“Activities of Daily Living”

38 C.F.R. §71.15

Toileting

Feeding “due to loss of coordination of upper extremities, extreme weakness, inability to swallow, or the need for a non-oral means of nutrition.”

Mobility difficulties (e.g., walking, going up stairs, moving from bed to chair, etc.)



General Caregiver

38 C.F.R. §71.30(c)

No clinical evaluation is necessary to obtain benefits as a General Caregiver!

Serves caregivers of Veterans from all eras!



General Caregiver Services

38 C.F.R. §71.40(a)

Instruction, training and support . . . Assistance by VA reps in navigating VA services, provided to the caregiver both online and in-person



General Caregiver Services

38 C.F.R. §71.40(a)

Respite Care . . . Gives a short-term break to the caregiver while professional care services are provided to the Veteran



General Caregiver Services

38 C.F.R. §71.40(a)

Respite Care . . . Can be in-home care, adult day health care, or even “residential” care at VA Community Living Centers (CLCs).



General Caregiver Services

38 C.F.R. §71.40(a)

Equipment & Supplies . . .

Devices to help mobility, incontinence supplies, cognitive prosthetics (i.e., memory or organization aids), etc.



General Caregiver Services

38 C.F.R. §71.50

Counseling . . . Given to “family members” (including anyone who is a General Caregiver, regardless of blood relationship) . . .

. . . *IF* VA deems it necessary *for the treatment of a disability* for which the Veteran is receiving treatment from the VA



VA
Comprehensive
Assistance for
Family Caregivers

*(This is the program with
the changes!)*



“Family Caregiver”

Threshold Requirements

- ** At least 18 years old
- ** No determination by the VA of abuse or neglect of the Veteran by the applicant

To be continued . . .

38 C.F.R. §71.25(b)



“Family Caregiver”

Threshold Requirements

Must be EITHER the Veteran’s spouse, child, or extended family member .

..

... *OR* someone who lives with the Veteran full-time (or will do so if designated as a caregiver)

To be continued . . .

38 C.F.R. §71.25(b)



“Family Caregiver”

Threshold Requirements

VA primary care team will first assess whether this individual can complete the caregiver training

Then the individual must complete the caregiver training

To be continued . . .

38 C.F.R. §71.25(c)



“Family Caregiver”

*Not all Family Caregivers
are legally equal.*

A Veteran can have:

One Primary Family
Caregiver, and

Up to two additional
Secondary Family
Caregivers



“Family Caregiver”

*Not all Family Caregivers
are legally equal.*

VA makes this
designation!

The Veteran’s primary
care team will pick the
Primary and Secondary
Family Caregivers

38 C.F.R. §71.25(f)



“Family Caregiver”

*Not all Family Caregivers
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The Veteran’s primary
care team will pick the
Primary and Secondary
Family Caregivers

38 C.F.R. §71.25(f)



“Secondary Family Caregiver”

38 C.F.R. §71.40(b)

- ** All of the General Caregiver benefits, *plus*
- ** Beneficiary travel reimbursements
- ** More detailed levels of instruction & training on personal care services



Beneficiary Travel

38 C.F.R. §70.10

The Veteran **MUST** be eligible for beneficiary travel before a family caregiver can become eligible for beneficiary travel reimbursements!



“Primary Family Caregiver”

38 C.F.R. §70.40(c)

** All of the General Caregiver and Secondary Family Caregiver benefits

** At least 30 days per year of respite care (and more if clinically appropriate)

To be continued . . .



“Primary Family Caregiver”

38 C.F.R. §70.40(c)

** Eligible for enrollment in CHAMPVA (unless they are entitled to care under a health-plan contract, see 38 U.S.C. 1725(f))

** Monthly payment from VA!



Veteran Requirements

38 U.S.C. §1720G

** Enrolled in VA Healthcare

** Needs **personal care services** because the Veteran is . . .

Unable to perform **an activity of daily living, OR**

Needs supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of an impairment or injury



Veteran Requirements

38 U.S.C. §1720G

Veteran has an injury
rated as **70% disabling**
incurred or aggravated in
the line of duty of “active
military, naval, or air
service” on or after
September 11, 2001, or
on or before May 7, 1975



“Demonstration of Need”

Veteran must
need the
personal care
services for at
least six months

...



“Demonstration of Need”

... based on an inability to perform an activity of daily living each time it is performed or . . .

.



*“Demonstration
of Need”*

**** Must be in
the Veteran’s
best interest to
have a caregiver**



VA Medical Requirement

** Veteran must receive ongoing care (**at least once a year**) from the primary care team at a VA medical facility



Stipend Amount

If the Veteran has **Level 1** care needs, caregiver receives:

62.5% of what a GS-4, Step 1 employee receives at their local VA medical facility



Stipend Amount

If the Veteran has **Level 2** care needs, caregiver receives:

100% of what a GS-4, Step 1 employee receives at their local VA medical facility



Eligibility Note:

Relatives are eligible regardless of whether they live in the same home as the eligible Veteran



Eligibility Note:

Qualifying non-relatives must live with the Veteran to be eligible as family caregivers



Application Notes

** VA Form 10-10 CG

** File with local VA
Medical Center
Caregiver Support
Coordinator

** Do not send the
application to Atlanta!



Application Notes

Appeals:

** Same appellate process as any other Veterans Health Administration decision

** Patient Advocate??



Questions??

Thank you for your
service to New York
State's Veterans,
Service Members,
family members,
and caregivers!

