

Operations Memorandum - Medicaid OPS090601

June 15, 2009

SUBJECT: Health Care Services Available Through The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
TO: Executive Directors
FROM: Joanne Glover, Director, Bureau of Operations

Purpose

To provide information to County Assistance Offices (CAOs) staff about possible health care services available through the VA. The information provided in this Operations Memorandum is effective upon issuance.

Background

Recent discussions with the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) and the VA made DPW aware of health care services that may be available to veterans. There are currently ten VA medical centers, 44 community-based clinics and six State VA long-term care residential facilities located across the Commonwealth. These health care facilities offer comprehensive services ranging from preventative screenings to long-term care services.

Discussion

Veterans who are in need of health care are often unaware of services they may be entitled to receive from the VA. A veteran often assumes that he/she will not qualify for any health care services provided by the VA. The VA has asked for our assistance in making veterans aware of VA health care benefits. A veteran should always be encouraged to contact the VA to ask about eligibility for health care services. Attached to this Operations Memorandum is a listing of the various VA health care centers and contact phone numbers.

Services that may be available in the VA health care system include, but are not limited to:

- Primary Care
- Mental Health Care
- Prescriptions
- Substance Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation

- Homeless Care
- Hearing and Vision Services
- Medical and Surgical Specialty Consultations and Treatment
- Prosthesis and Home Medical Equipment
- Radiology
- Sleep Center Program
- Speech Therapy
- Rehabilitation
- Acute Inpatient Care and Emergency Room Care

An eligible veteran can access care in any VA health care center, regardless of whether they reside in the Commonwealth. Initial visits may be required at a VA hospital. Travel reimbursement may be available beyond a certain travel distance. In some situations, the VA may pay to have routine care provided by a physician located closer to the individual's home.

The VA is currently developing flyers and brochures to inform veterans of the availability of the health care services. These flyers and brochures will be made available to the CAOs. Whenever a veteran applies for MA, the CAO should make the individual aware of health care services that may be available through the VA. Currently, the majority of applications for MA are reviewed for eligibility for MA without a personal contact with the individual. To ensure that a veteran is aware of these services, please mail one of the flyers/brochures to any individual listed as a veteran on the application. Receiving VA health care services has no effect on MA eligibility. At this time, please do not enter these VA services as a TPL resource. DPW will be completing a data match with the VA for this information. Once it is established, if any updates or revisions to TPL are needed, it will be communicated via a future daily status.

Next Steps

1. This Operations Memorandum will become obsolete when the information is incorporated into Chapter 304.
2. Share this information with appropriate staff.
3. Direct any questions to your Area Manager.

[Attachment A VA Medical Centers](#)

[Attachment B VA Community-Based Clinics](#)

[Attachment C PA State Veterans' Homes](#)