

Expansion of VA Health Care Eligibility

The Department of Veterans Affairs is making millions of Veterans eligible for [VA health care](#) under the PACT Act. Here's what YOU need to know.

- If you served in Vietnam, the Gulf War, Iraq, or Afghanistan, you can enroll.
- If you deployed to any combat zone after 9/11, you can enroll.
- If you deployed in support of the Global War on Terror, you can enroll.
- And even if you never deployed but were exposed to toxins or hazards while training or serving on active duty here at home – by working with chemicals, pesticides, lead, asbestos, certain paints, nuclear weapons, x-rays, and more – you can enroll, too.

Bottom line: all Veterans who meet the minimum service requirements and were exposed to toxins and other hazards – at home or abroad – are eligible to enroll in VA care.

VA provides the best and most affordable health care for Veterans in America – and *this* is your chance to apply. Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care are proven to have better health outcomes than those who get their care elsewhere. And copays can be as low as \$0 for prescriptions, urgent care, outpatient care, and more.

Even if you don't think you need this care today, you might need it tomorrow, or the next day, or 30 years from now. **All you have to do is enroll, then you have access for life.**

So don't miss this opportunity: better, more affordable health care is waiting for you. Go to [VA.gov/PACT](#) and apply now. You can also call 1-800-MyVA411 (Option 2) to learn more about these benefits and services, or you can visit your nearest VA Medical Center (<https://www.va.gov/find-locations>).

Apply now:

You can apply for VA health care:

- Online at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction>
- By calling our toll-free hotline at 877-222-8387, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.
- By mailing a completed [Application for Health Care Benefits \(VA Form 10-10EZ\)](#) to:

Health Eligibility Center
2957 Clairmont Rd., Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30329

- In person by visiting the Enrollment Center on the 1st floor of the Baltimore VA Medical Center or the Admissions Office on the 1st floor of Building 361 at the Perry Point VA Medical Center. To find the Baltimore and Perry Point VA Medical Centers, please visit <https://www.va.gov/maryland-health-care/locations/>.

An advertisement for VA health care. It features a dark blue background on the left with white text and icons of a hospital and a pill. On the right, a photograph shows a female healthcare professional in blue scrubs smiling and touching the shoulder of an elderly male patient sitting in a chair. The text includes: 'DID YOU KNOW? VA is the most affordable health care in America for Veterans. With copays as low as \$0 for prescriptions, urgent care, outpatient care, and more.' Below this is a light blue banner with 'AFFORDABLE VA HEALTH CARE' in white. At the bottom left, it says 'Apply for VA health care today at VA.gov/PACT.' and includes the VA logo and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs seal.

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AFFORDABLE VA HEALTH CARE

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VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

What do I get when I enroll?

VA offers world-class, comprehensive health care – including yearly physicals, health assessments, free screenings (including a toxic exposure screening), specialized care for issues related to military service, and more. This is true regardless of whether or not you have a service-connected condition. Our clinicians know Veterans – they often are Veterans themselves – and they are ready to help.

What are the minimum service requirements?

In general, Veterans must have served 24 months of continuous active duty **or** the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty. Former members of the Reserves or National Guard are eligible for VA health care if they have qualifying service (as described above) **and** meet one of the health care eligibility requirements in the PACT Act. Former members of the Reserves or National Guard who only served for training purposes may not be able to establish Veteran status if they did not incur a qualifying disability during such training.

Are there exceptions to the minimum active-duty service requirements?

Of course, there are. The minimum active-duty service requirement for VA health care may not apply if any of these are true: The Veteran was discharged or released for a qualifying reason (e.g., early discharge, hardship, medical discharge); The Veteran was discharged for a disability that was caused—or made worse—by active-duty service; The Veteran served prior to the early 1980s.

Please visit www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility for more information.

For information about the VA Maryland Health Care System, including the locations, services and phone numbers, please visit www.maryland.va.gov.