



VETERANS VOICE

Winneshago County Department of Veterans Services Newsletter

November 2021

VA Nursing Homes, Assisted Living and Home Health Care

As a Veteran, you may be able to get assisted living, residential (Live-in), or home health care through VA. The VA offers the following kinds of long-term care services:

- 24/7 nursing and medical care
- Physical therapy
- Help with daily tasks (like bathing, dressing, making meals, and taking medicine)
- Comfort care and help with managing pain
- Support for caregivers who may need skilled help or a break so they can work, travel, or run errands

You can get this care in many different settings - some run by VA and others run by state or community organizations that are inspected and approved by the VA. Care settings may include:

- Nursing homes
- Assisted-living centers
- Private homes where a caregiver supports a small group of individuals
- Adult day health centers
- Veterans' own homes

You may be able to use one or more of these services if you meet all of the following requirements:

- You're signed up for VA health care, **and**
- You need a specific service to help with your ongoing treatment and personal care, **and**
- The service (or space in the care setting) is available near you

Other factors may be considered, like your service-connected disability status or insurance coverage.

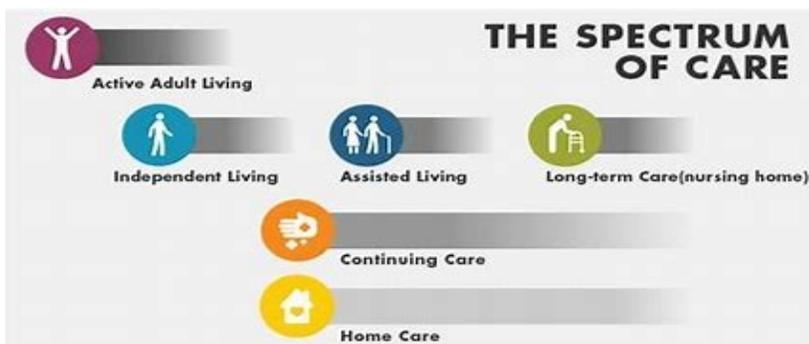
Continued on Page 2..

“It is never too late to be what you might have been.”

- George Eliot

In This Issue

- VA Nursing Homes, Assisted Living and Home Health Care
- National Home Care & Hospice Month
- About VA Health Benefits
- Upcoming Events



Continued...

The VA pays for some of these services under your standard health benefits if you're signed up for VA health care. You may still need to pay a copay for some covered services. Other services aren't covered under VA health care benefits. For these services, you may be able to pay through Medicaid, Medicare, or your own private insurance. [Learn more about paying for long-term care.](#)

You can get nursing home care in one of the nursing home settings listed below. In each, you'd live there full time and have access to nursing and medical care, as well as help with daily tasks 24 hours a day. You may be able to get VA benefits to help pay for nursing home care. It depends on your income and the level of your service-connected disability (a disability that resulted from your military service).

- [Community Nursing Homes](#) Non-VA nursing homes that contract with the VA
- [State Veterans Homes](#) State-owned and –managed centers that provide full-time care for Veterans and, sometimes, non-Veteran spouses and Gold Star parents

If you're signed up for VA health care, you can get help managing your disability or health condition while living at home. The services you qualify for will depend on your needs and whether a service is available in your area. If you need to, you may be able to use more than one service at the same time. The following services are available:

- [Home-based primary care](#) A VA health care team, led by a VA doctor, who provides services (like nursing care, physical therapy, and help with daily tasks) in your home
- [Homemaker/home health aide \(H/HHA\) services](#) A trained caregiver who comes into your home to help you care for yourself
- [Adult day health care](#) A program you can go to during the day for social activities, companionship, and recreation as well as care and support
- [Hospice care](#) Skilled caregivers who come into your home to provide comfort care to you and your family. You qualify for hospice care if you have a terminal condition (a condition that can't be treated), with less than 6 months to live, and you're no longer seeking treatment other than to ease pain.
- [Palliative care](#) Skilled caregivers who come into your home to provide comfort care to help ease your pain and control your symptoms so you can do as much as possible in your daily life.

To find out how to access these services, contact your VA social worker. Or, call the toll-free hotline at 877-222-8387, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm ET. If you're not currently in the VA health care program, please contact our office to see if you are eligible and to sign up.



Home Care & Hospice Month

During the month of November, the home care and hospice community honors the millions of nurses, home care aides, therapists, and social workers who make a remarkable difference for the patients and their families they serve. These heroic caregivers play a central role in our health care system and in homes across the nation. To recognize their efforts, we call upon all Americans to commemorate the power of caring, both at the home and in their local communities.

Home care includes a range of medical, social, assistive and other services provided in an individual's home when a person needs follow-up care after a hospital visit or requires long term care. The focus of these patient-centered services includes prevention, recuperation, and/or alternative to higher-cost institutional care that would otherwise be provided in a hospital or nursing facility.

Hospice and palliative care programs provide pain management, symptom control, psychosocial support and spiritual care to patients and their families when a cure is not possible. These programs combine the highest level of quality medical care with the emotional and spiritual support that families need most when facing a serious illness or the end of life.

Ninety percent of Americans want to age in place and home care is the preferred method of health care delivery among the disabled, elderly and chronically ill. Home care provides high-quality, compassionate care to more than 5 million Americans annually.

About VA Health Benefits

If you qualify for VA health care, you'll receive coverage for the services you need to help you get - and stay - healthy. Each Veteran's medical benefits package is unique. Yours will include care and service to help:

- Treat illnesses and injuries
- Prevent future health problems
- Improve your ability to function
- Enhance your quality of life

All Veterans receive coverage for most care and services, but only some will qualify for added benefits like dental care. The full list of your covered benefits depends on:

- Your priority group, [learn more about priority groups](#), and
- The advice of your VA primary care provider (your main doctor, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant), and
- The medical standards for treating any health conditions you may have

What Basic Health Care Services Does VA Cover

Preventive care services, like:

- Health exams (including gender-specific exams)
- Health education (including nutrition education)
- Immunization against infectious diseases (like flu shots)
- Counseling on genetic diseases (diseases that run in families)

Inpatient hospital services, like:

- Surgeries
- Medical treatments
- Kidney dialysis
- Acute care (short-term treatment for a severe illness or injury or after surgery)
- Specialized care (including organ transplants, intensive care for mental and physical conditions, and care for traumatic injuries)

[See more VA medical and surgical specialty care services](#)

Urgent and emergency care services, like:

- Urgent or emergency care at some VA health facilities
- Urgent care for injuries and illnesses that need attention right away, but aren't life threatening, at urgent care locations that are part of our contracted network. This may include care at a VA-approved:
 - Walk-in retail health clinic for minor illnesses like a sore throat or earache
 - Urgent care facility for more pressing (but not life-threatening) illnesses or injuries that require treatment like splinting, casting, or wound care

To use these services, you'll need to be enrolled in VA health care, and you'll need to have received care from the VA within the past 24 months. Be sure to tell the urgent care provider that you're using the VA urgent care benefit when you arrive.

[Learn more about urgent care](#)

- Emergency care in a non-VA hospital, clinic, or other medical setting - only under certain conditions. For the VA to consider covering non-VA emergency care for a non-service-connected condition, you'll need to meet several requirements.

[Learn more about non-VA emergency medical care](#)

Other services and needs, like:

- Mental health services to treat certain issues like posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), military sexual trauma (MST), depression, and substance use problems. [Learn more about mental health services](#)
- Assisted living home health care (depending on your needs and income as well as space in the programs).
- Prescriptions written or approved by a VA doctor. [Refill your prescriptions](#)

Services that your VA primary care provider concludes you need to support your treatment (called ancillary services), like:

- Tests used to diagnose health conditions, therapy and rehabilitation services, prosthetic items, audiology, and radiation oncology.

