

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



PUBLIC HEALTH-SEATTLE & KING COUNTY

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"Serving Those Who Served"



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VA PUGET SOUND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

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VA HEALTH CARE

A VETERAN MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA TO BE ELIGIBLE:

- Has served in the active military, naval, or air service and didn't receive a dishonorable discharge, and must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which you were called to active duty.
- **This minimum duty requirement may not apply if any of these are true.**
 - **Were discharged for a disability that was caused—or made worse—by your active-duty service, or were discharged for a hardship or “early out”**
- If the member is currently, or former member of the Reserves or National Guard, it must have been called to active duty by a federal order and completed the full period for which you were called or ordered to active duty. If you had or have active-duty status for training purposes only, you don't qualify for VA health care.

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WHAT IS A PRIORITY GROUP?

- When a veteran applies for VA health care, the Veteran is assigned to 1 of 8 priority groups. This system helps to make sure that Veterans who need immediate care can get signed up quickly.
- **Their priority group may affect how soon the Veteran is signed up for health care benefits.**
- It may also affect how much (if anything) the Veteran has to pay toward the cost of care, (co-pay).



THINGS THAT MAKES A VETERAN FALL IN A HIGHER PRIORITY GROUP

- ✓ Receives financial compensation for a service-connected disability
- ✓ Is a recently discharged combat Veteran
- ✓ Receives VA pension
- ✓ Received a Medal of Honor, or a Purple Heart
- ✓ Qualifies for Medicaid benefits
- ✓ Served in Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975
- ✓ Served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War
- ✓ Served at least 30 days at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987

If none of the above apply to you, you may still qualify for care based on your income.

