

CHAMPVA

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CHAMPVA

The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) is a federal health care benefits program. VA shares the cost of certain health care services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries or Veterans. Veterans Health Administration (VHA) processes CHAMPVA applications and medical claims, determines eligibility and authorizes benefits.



CHAMPVA Eligibility

You may only be eligible for health care through CHAMPVA if you don't qualify for TRICARE and at least one of these descriptions is true for you.

At least one of these must be true:

- You're the spouse or child of a Veteran who's been rated permanently and totally disabled for a service-connected disability by a VA regional office, **or**
- You're the surviving spouse or child of a Veteran who died from a VA-rated service-connected disability, **or**
- You're the surviving spouse or child of a Veteran who was at the time of death rated permanently and totally disabled from a service-connected disability, **or**
- You're the surviving spouse or child of a service member who died in the line of duty, not due to misconduct (in most of these cases, family members qualify for TRICARE, not CHAMPVA).

Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

- Primary Family Caregivers participating in Veterans Affairs' (VA) Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) may be eligible for healthcare through this program if not otherwise entitled to care or services under another health-plan contract, including but not limited to TRICARE, Medicare, or Medicaid. Through this program, the cost of some of your health care services and supplies are covered. This is called cost-sharing.



Medicare and CHAMPVA

If I am eligible for Medicare, am I still eligible for CHAMPVA?

- If you have CHAMPVA and qualify for Medicare at any age you must have both Medicare Part A and B to continue your CHAMPVA eligibility.

If I am turning age 65, do I have to apply for CHAMPVA again even though I had done so before?

- Yes, but the application process is much easier. Ninety days before your 65th birthday, CHAMPVA will contact you by mail with instructions. You will be asked to complete a VA Form 10-7959c, CHAMPVA Other Health Insurance (OHI) Certification <https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-10-7959c/>, and you will need to provide a copy of your Medicare card.

Can I use a VA Medical Center (VAMC) to obtain my care if I am Medicare eligible?

- No. CHAMPVA beneficiaries with Medicare cannot use a VAMC because Medicare will not pay the medical center for the services it provides. If you are currently being seen at a VAMC, but will become entitled to Medicare soon, you will need to find a different provider.



Medicare and CHAMPVA

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If you have CHAMPVA and qualify for Medicare at any age you must have both Medicare Part A and B to continue your CHAMPVA eligibility.

You are also eligible for CHAMPVA if you are over 65 and eligible for Medicare. As a result of a law passed on June 5, 2001, CHAMPVA coverage became available to beneficiaries over 65. Review the following chart carefully as there are limitations if you only have Medicare Part A.

If I am...	Medicare Part B required?	Effective date of CHAMPVA eligibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> age 65 or older prior to June 5, 2001, and otherwise eligible for CHAMPVA, and entitled to Medicare Part A coverage 	No	October 1, 2001
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> age 65 or older prior to June 5, 2001, and otherwise eligible for CHAMPVA, and entitled to Medicare Part A coverage, and enrolled in Medicare Part B coverage as of June 5, 2001 	Yes	October 1, 2001
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> age 65 on or after June 5, 2001, and CHAMPVA eligible, and entitled to Medicare Part A coverage 	Yes	Date of CHAMPVA eligibility, or October 1, 2001, whichever is later

I am not entitled to Medicare Part A, but have purchased Part B. Am I required to retain Part B?

No. If you are not entitled to Medicare Part A and have purchased Part B, you can disenroll from Medicare Part B with no impact on CHAMPVA benefits.

I did not enroll in Medicare Part B, but am required to have it to be CHAMPVA eligible. Can I still obtain Part B coverage?

Yes. Contact your local Social Security office to find out about enrollment in Medicare Part B. Medicare may charge a penalty for late enrollment. If you do choose to purchase Medicare Part B, you can then apply for CHAMPVA; CHAMPVA eligibility will begin on the date the Part B coverage is effective.

If I am over age 65, but am not eligible for Medicare Part A under my own or my spouse's Social Security number, can I continue to be eligible for CHAMPVA?

Yes. If you meet the criteria for CHAMPVA eligibility and are not entitled to Medicare Part A, you must submit a *Notice of Disallowance* from the Social Security Administration along with your CHAMPVA application.

If the Department of Veterans Affairs rated me as a helpless child, will these Medicare rules apply to me?

Yes. If you were rated as a helpless child by a VA Regional Office and continue to carry that rating, the same rules for eligibility provided previously apply.

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What should I do if I use a different name with Medicare than I do with CHAMPVA?

The name you use with all medical coverage should be the same. If different names are used, it will cause a delay of payment on claims. This can cause you to be billed directly by the provider.

Are bills for medical services sent to Medicare or CHAMPVA first?

Medicare is the first payer. If you have a Medicare HMO plan or a Medicare supplemental insurance, those plans must also be billed before CHAMPVA.

Does CHAMPVA have a catastrophic cap?

Yes. There will still be some out-of-pocket expenses when using CHAMPVA along with Medicare coverage, but you and your family will never pay more than \$3,000 per year for out-of-pocket expenses for covered services.

How much do I have to pay?

When services are not covered by primary because its not a covered benefit under them CHAMPVA pays 100% of the CHAMPVA allowable, leaving no cost-share for the beneficiary.

Will CHAMPVA pay the Medicare outpatient annual deductible or the Medicare Part B premiums?

CHAMPVA will cover your portion (coinsurance and deductible) up to 100% of the CHAMPVA allowable amount. If your deductible is over the CHAMPVA allowable amount, then you will be responsible to pay the provider the difference between the CHAMPVA allowable and the remainder amount from the Medicare deductible.

Will Medicare and CHAMPVA cover all my medical needs?

Combined, these two programs will cover most of your medical needs. However, there are some benefits that are not provided under either program. For example, cosmetic services and eyeglasses are either not covered or are covered in extremely limited situations. Please review the benefit coverage of both programs carefully.

Will my medications be covered by CHAMPVA?

If you have Medicare Part D, you can still receive your medications at your local pharmacy. In order to use the Meds by Mail program, you must not have any other prescription coverage. For more information, refer to *Fact Sheet 01-05: CHAMPVA Pharmacy Benefits* https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/docs/pubfiles/factsheets/FactSheet_01-05.pdf for more information.

Can I use a VA Medical Center (VAMC) to obtain my care if I am Medicare eligible?

No. CHAMPVA beneficiaries with Medicare cannot use a VAMC because Medicare will not pay the medical center for the services it provides. If you are currently being seen at a VAMC, but will become entitled to Medicare soon, you will need to find a different provider.

What happens if I live overseas?

You must still meet the rules for eligibility previously listed. That means, if you are required to have Medicare Part B coverage, you must purchase Medicare Part B to be CHAMPVA eligible. Because Medicare will not pay for medical services obtained outside the United States, if you meet the rules listed previously, CHAMPVA will pay after any other health insurance you have. If you have no other health insurance, CHAMPVA will be the primary payer.

How do I get more information?

- Mail: Veterans Health Administration
CHAMPVA
PO Box 469063
Denver CO 80246-9063
- Phone: 1-800-733-8387, Monday-Friday
8:05 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Eastern time
- Email: Create a profile and message us securely using [Ask VA \(AVA\)](#).
- Website: <https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/dependents/champva/index.asp>



CHAMPVA Guide

*Helping you take an active
role in your health care*



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

CHAMPVA CHAMPVA Authorization	1-800-733-8387
Mental Health	1-800-424-4018
Meds by Mail (MbM) (See Section 3 for the number of the servicing center for your state).	East 1-866-229-7389 West 1-888-385-0235 Refill System 1-888-370-1699
Medicare Helpline For help with questions about Medicare	1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) TTY 1-877-486-2048
Social Security Administration For help with questions about Medicare, Social Security retirement benefits or disability benefits	1-800-772-1213 TTY 1-800-325-0778
OptumRx® retail pharmacy network	1-888-546-5502

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