

Apply for health care benefits -

<https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction>

Follow the steps below to apply for health care benefits.

Prepare, TO FILL OUT THIS APPLICATION, YOU'LL NEED YOUR:

- Social Security number (required)
- Copy of your military discharge papers (DD214 or other separation documents)
- Financial information—and your dependents' financial information
- Most recent tax return
- Account numbers for any health insurance you currently have (such as Medicare, private insurance, or insurance from an employer)

What if I need help filling out my application? An accredited representative, like a Veterans Service Officer (VSO), can help you fill out your claim. [Get help filing your claim, www.va.gov/disability-benefits/apply/help/index.html](https://www.va.gov/disability-benefits/apply/help/index.html).

VISION AND DENTAL BENEFITS

You may qualify for vision and dental benefits as part of your VA health care benefits.

Vision benefits. VA health care covers routine eye exams and preventive tests. In some cases, you may get coverage for eyeglasses or services for blind or low-vision rehabilitation. [Learn more about vision care through VA, www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/vision-care](https://www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/vision-care).

Dental benefits. In some cases, you may receive dental care as part of your health care benefits. [Learn more about VA dental services, www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/dental-care](https://www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/dental-care).

HEALTH CARE PRIORITY GROUPS

When you apply for VA health care, we'll assign you 1 of 8 priority groups. This system helps to make sure that Veterans who need immediate care can get signed up quickly. We assign Veterans with service-connected disabilities the highest priority. We assign the lowest priority to Veterans who earn a higher income and who don't have any service-connected disabilities. [Learn more about priority groups, www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/#priority-groups](https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/#priority-groups).

Apply

Complete the health care benefits form, <https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction>

After submitting the form, you'll get a confirmation message. You can print this for your records.

VA Review

We process health care claims within a week. If more than a week has passed since you submitted your application and you haven't heard back, please don't apply again. Call us at 1-877-222-VETS ([1-877-222-8387](tel:1-877-222-8387)).

Decision

Once we've processed your claim, you'll get a notice in the mail with our decision.