

FOREIGN MEDICAL PROGRAM POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 1
TITLE: GENERAL MEDICAL BENEFITS

AUTHORITY: 38 USC 1724; 38 CFR 17.35

I. POLICY

Medical services and supplies are covered when medically necessary and appropriate for the treatment of a service-connected disability or any disability associated with and held to be aggravating a service-connected disability, or to a veteran participating in a rehabilitation program under 38 USC chapter 31.

II. POLICY CONSIDERATION:

A. Preauthorization is required for DME purchases (see [Chapter 2, Section 9, Durable Medical Equipment](#)).

B. If medical records are submitted in a foreign language, the document will be sent to the Health Administration Center (HAC) foreign language contractor for translation.

C. If services are unavailable in the country where the veteran resides, the veteran should seek medical care at the nearest feasible medical facility that is capable of treating the service-connected condition.

III. EXCLUSIONS

A. Procedures that are experimental or investigational (unproven).

B. Services provided as part of a grant, study, or research program.

C. Treatment, services, and supplies which are determined not medically necessary or appropriate.

D. Services, treatment, procedures or supplies for which the beneficiary has no legal obligation to pay, such as services obtained at a health fair.

E. Services, treatment, prescriptions, and supplies unrelated to the service-connected condition.

F. Services furnished or billed by a provider or facility barred from HAC participation.

G. Services that are not accepted by the VA and/or US medical community, such as the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

H. family planning services and sterilization,

I. adult day care,

J. non-medical home care (aide and attendant),

K. abortions, except when the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term,

L. routine travel, meals and lodging, and

M. health clubs and spas for rehabilitation.

*** END OF POLICY ***