

## HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS

CHAPTER: 1  
SECTION: 2  
TITLE: ELIGIBILITY

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AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.900 and 17.901

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### I. POLICY

#### A. The Spina Bifida Healthcare Program.

1. Children who are determined eligible for a monetary benefit by the Veteran Benefit Administration (VBA) are eligible for health care benefits under the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program.

2. Health care benefits may be claimed for services and supplies starting on the effective date of the VBA award.

#### B. Children of Women Vietnam Veterans (CWVV) Program.

1. Children with covered birth defect(s) and assigned a level of disability by the VBA are eligible for health care benefits. Levels of disability range from level 0 to level 4. A level 0 rating by the VBA does not result in a monetary benefit, but health care benefits required for that disability may be authorized.

2. Health care benefits may be claimed for services and supplies starting on the effective date of the VBA rating.

C. No Duplication Between Programs. In the case of an individual whose only covered birth defect is spina bifida, health care benefits will be paid under the Spina Bifida Healthcare Program. In the case of an individual who has one or more covered birth defects (which may include spina bifida), health care benefits will be paid under the Children of Women Vietnam Veterans (CWVV) Program.

### II. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. Prospective Spina Bifida Healthcare Program and Children of Women Vietnam Veterans Program beneficiaries must first contact a VBA regional office to initiate the VBA application process.

B. A monthly update is received at the Health Administration Center identifying children determined eligible by VBA for benefits. An identification card is then issued by HAC, which includes the beneficiary's name, Social Security Number (SSN), and effective date for health care benefits.

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**\*END OF POLICY\***