

What is the Spina Bifida Health Care Program?

The Spina Bifida Health Care Program is a program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs for Vietnam and certain Korean Veterans' birth children who have been diagnosed with spina bifida (except spina bifida occulta). The program provides reimbursement for medical services and supplies. Effective October 10, 2008, there was a change to Public Law 110-387, Section 408, which outlines the benefits available under the Spina Bifida Program. As a result of this change, medical services and supplies for spina bifida beneficiaries are no longer limited to the spina bifida condition. This program now covers comprehensive health care considered medically necessary and appropriate. The VA's Health Administration Center in Denver, Colorado, manages the Spina Bifida Health Care Program, including the authorization of benefits and the subsequent processing and payment of claims. Contact us if you have questions.

Is preauthorization required for services?

Preauthorization is required for the following:

- attendants
- dental services
- durable medical equipment (in excess of \$2,000)
- mental health services
- organ transplants
- substance abuse treatment
- training of family members
- travel (other than mileage for local travel)
- hospice

When is preauthorization required for travel?

Travel to a physician in the local commuting area (generally fewer than 50 miles from the patient's home) does not require preauthorization. If you recommend that the patient be examined/treated by a specialist that is not in your local area (someone who is in another part of the state or country), preauthorization must be obtained.

The request for preauthorization should include your recommendation for evaluation, an

explanation of why the service cannot be performed by a specialist in the local area and the name and address of the physician to whom you are referring the patient.

How is preauthorization requested?

Requests may be made by FAX: 303-331-7807, or in writing to the VA Health Administration Center, PO Box 469065, Denver, CO 80246-9065. If the preauthorization relates to a medical service or supply, the medical provider should submit the request.

Do I need approvals for referrals to specialists or for diagnostic tests?

No.

What kind of case management and utilization review is performed?

Clinical reviews include review of mental health/substance abuse services; physical, occupational, and speech therapy; home health care; hospice; inpatient skilled nursing services; and rehabilitation. The notes from the medical provider/caregiver should accompany these claims.

Is there a contract or agreement that I must sign to accept/participate in the Spina Bifida Health Care Program?

No, the Spina Bifida Health Care Program does not have contract providers. You must be properly licensed in your state to receive payment and not be on the Medicare exclusion list.

Do I have to accept the Spina Bifida Health Care Program allowable rate?

Yes, under 38 CFR 17.903(c), providers must accept the Spina Bifida Health Care Program allowable rate and cannot balance bill the patient.

How do I get a claim paid?

Send the claim form (CMS-1500 or UB-04) to PO Box 469065, Denver, CO 80246-9065. This is the ONLY address for the Spina Bifida Health Care Program. Do not use the address that you have for TRICARE. And remember, the Spina Bifida Health Care Program is exclusive payer for spina bifida and related conditions.

How much does the Spina Bifida Health Care Program pay for services?

There are no co-pays or deductible for beneficiaries. We pay 100% of the allowable charge.

How quickly does the Spina Bifida Health Care Program pay claims?

Normally, 95% of claims for services are paid within 30 days of receipt.

How do I know someone is enrolled in the Spina Bifida Health Care Program?

Every Spina Bifida Health Care Program beneficiary will have an identification card that looks similar to the card shown below:

 Department of Veterans Affairs Health Administration Center Spina Bifida	Identification Card PO Box 469065 Denver CO 80246-9065
Beneficiary Name JOHN D. DOE	
Include this Member Number on all claims and letters "Patient SSN"	
This is your Spina Bifida Identification Card	
Effective Date 01/02/06	1-888-820-1756 www.va.gov/hac
VA Form 10-7959e-1, May 2009	

How do I get more information?

- Check out our Web site at www.va.gov/hac and click on the "For Beneficiaries" tab, then select Spina Bifida / Children of Women Vietnam Veterans (CWVV).
- Write us at PO Box 469065, Denver, CO 80246-9065.
- To contact us by e-mail, please go to www.va.gov/hac/contact and follow the directions for submitting e-mail via IRIS.
- Call 1-888-820-1756.