

**HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS**

**CHAPTER: 2**  
**SECTION: 15**  
**TITLE: PROVIDERS**

---

---

**AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.900 – 17.901**

---

---

**I. DEFINITION**

An authorized health care provider is a hospital or institutional provider, physician, or other individual professional provider or other provider of services or supplies specifically authorized to provide benefits under this policy. This includes specialized clinics to include spina bifida clinics, institutions, and providers or individuals that furnishes health care within the scope of his/her licensure or certificate.

**II. POLICY**

A. A health care provider must be approved by The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), TRICARE, Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA), Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHO), or approved for providing health care pursuant to a State license or certificate.

B. An entity or individual shall be deemed to be an approved health care provider only when acting within the scope of the approval, license or certificate.

**III. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

A. Services may be obtained from VA health care facilities.

B. Cost-free health care may be obtained for spina bifida beneficiaries through the Shriners Hospital which is a nonprofit charitable corporation offering comprehensive services to children under the age of 18.

C. Beneficiaries may select the provider of their choice as long as the provider is properly licensed/certified in your state and is not on the Medicare exclusion list.

**\*END OF POLICY\***

**TRANSMITTAL #: 1**  
**DATE: 01/31/02**