

**VA**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**Fact Sheet**Office of Public Affairs  
Media RelationsWashington, DC 20420  
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[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)**Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014  
Section 501: Extension of Pilot Program on Assisted Living Services for Veterans  
with Traumatic Brain Injury**

On August 7, 2014, President Obama signed into law the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146) (“Choice Act”). Technical revisions to the Choice Act were made on September 26, 2014, when the President signed into law the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-175). The Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) goal continues to be to provide timely, high-quality health care for Veterans.

Section 501 of the Choice Act extends the duration of the Assisted Living-Traumatic Brain Injury (AL-TBI) pilot for another three years, until October 6, 2017.

**Background**

Section 501 calls for VA to extend the duration of the Assisted Living-Traumatic Brain Injury (AL-TBI) pilot program. The AL-TBI pilot program provides intensive residential care and rehabilitation to eligible Veterans with moderate to severe traumatic brain injuries. This service is provided to eligible Veterans through contracts with private sector community-based and transitional rehabilitation programs around the country.

**Benefits**

The AL-TBI pilot program provides eligible Veterans with residential care and ongoing rehabilitation in an assisted living setting. Care provided through the program is designed to meet the individual rehabilitation needs of the Veteran as well as to facilitate the transition into community and independent living.

**Eligibility**

To be clinically eligible for the AL-TBI pilot program the Veteran must:

- Be enrolled in the Veterans Health Administration system of patient enrollment
- Have suffered a moderate to severe Traumatic Brain Injury
- Have received hospital care or medical services from the VA health care system for the Traumatic Brain Injury
- Be unable to manage routine activities of daily living without supervision or assistance

- Have current rehabilitation needs
- Be able and willing to participate in a rehabilitation plan of care
- Be a Veteran who could reasonably be expected to receive ongoing services after the end of the pilot under another Federal program or through other means

## **Program Success**

The interim outcomes of the AL-TBI pilot demonstrate improvements for participating Veterans within six to twelve months of participation in the pilot. Some of the observed outcomes include improved adjustment as well as improved emotional, cognitive, and sensory symptoms of Traumatic Brain Injury. Additionally, the need for full time supervision of participating Veterans appears to decrease over time. Veterans and families report high satisfaction with these services.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q: How does extending the Assisted Living (AL)-Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) pilot program improve access to health care for Veterans?**

**A:** The extension of the Assisted Living-Traumatic Brain Injury (AL-TBI) pilot program will ensure that VA can continue to provide intensive care and rehabilitation to eligible Veterans with traumatic brain injuries through the pilot. The pilot is carried out through community-based and transitional rehabilitation programs around the country for eligible Veterans.

### **Q: What specific services are offered under the Assisted Living-Traumatic Brain Injury pilot program?**

**A:** The Assisted Living-Traumatic Brain Injury pilot program provides specialized residential care and rehabilitation for eligible Veterans with a moderate to severe Traumatic Brain Injury.

### **Q: Where is this pilot program available?**

**A:** This program operates nationwide utilizing contracts with private providers.

### **Q: Who is eligible to participate in this pilot?**

**A:** Veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system, who have suffered a moderate to severe Traumatic Brain Injury, and who meet other clinical eligibility requirements.

### **Q: Will more Veterans be able to receive services under the extension of the Assisted Living-TBI Extension pilot program?**

**A:** New referrals are being accepted for consideration for placement into the AL-TBI pilot.

### **Q: Will this pilot continue to provide services beyond the three year extension?**

**A:** Currently, the pilot is scheduled to end on October 6, 2017.

**Q: How are local VA Medical Centers involved with the pilot?**

**A:** Local VA Medical Centers currently provide oversight and primary and specialty care services for the Veterans placed in the pilot.