

What is the Foreign Medical Program (FMP)?

FMP is a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care benefits program for U.S. Veterans with VA-rated service-connected disabilities who are residing or traveling abroad. Under FMP, VA assumes payment responsibility for certain health care services necessary for treatment of a service-connected disability or any disability associated with and held to be aggravating a service-connected disability.

The VA VHA Office of Community Care (VHA CC) in Denver, Colo. administers FMP. VHA CC is responsible for all aspects of the program including the Veterans' registration, verification of eligibility and authorization of benefits, as well as the processing and payment of claims. All FMP claims and inquiries should be made directly to VHA CC.

How does FMP relate to CHAMPUS/TRICARE?

There is no relationship to CHAMPUS/TRICARE.

Is there a contract or agreement I must sign to accept/participate in FMP?

No, FMP does not have contract providers.

How do I know if someone is FMP eligible?

Veterans will have an FMP benefits authorization letter, which outlines the medical disabilities covered.

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

Approvals are not required for referrals or diagnostic tests related to the treatment of service-connected disabilities.

What kind of case management and utilization review is performed?

Claims are reviewed to determine whether the care provided is related to the service-connected disability. Clinical reviews may include physical, occupational and speech therapy; home health care; mental health/substance abuse; durable medical equipment; and inpatient skilled nursing services and rehabilitation.

What kind of medication is covered under the FMP?

Prescription and over-the-counter medications are covered if the drug is appropriate for the treatment of a service-connected disability, or any disability associated with and held to be aggravating a service-connected disability, for which it is prescribed. All medications must be approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

If you are unsure that a medication is FDA-approved, you can check the Drugs@FDA web page on the FDA website at <http://www.fda.gov> or contact the FMP for clarification. In order for the FMP to determine if a medication will be covered, you will need to submit the name of the medication, the disability for which it is being prescribed, and the dosage and usage.

Medication purchased in the U.S. and mailed or shipped to a foreign country is *not* covered.

How do I get a claim paid?

When you submit a claim, send the following information and documentation to the mailing address listed below:

- VA Form 10-7959f-2, *FMP Claim Cover Sheet*
- Patient's full name, mailing address, U.S. Social Security number and VA File Number
- Provider's full name, medical title, office address and phone number, and billing address, if different from the office address
- Diagnosis treated
- Narrative description of service provided
- Billed charge(s) and date(s) for each service

Can the Veteran use other health insurance (OHI)?

Under most circumstances, the FMP is the primary payer for any service-connected disability or disability associated with and held to be aggravating a service-connected disability, and for Veterans participating in a rehabilitation program under 38 USC chapter 31. If the Veteran has OHI, the OHI explanation of benefits must be submitted with the FMP claim for consideration of payment of the Veteran's remaining patient responsibilities. FMP will not reimburse for services rendered that are not related to the treatment of a VA adjudicated service-connected disability.

How do I get more information?

- Mail: VHA Office of Community Care
Foreign Medical Program
PO Box 469061, Denver, CO 80246-9061
- Phone: 303-331-7590, Monday-Friday
8:05 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time
- Email: Follow the directions for submitting email via IRIS at <https://iris.custhelp.com/app/ask>
- Website: <http://www.va.gov/purchasedcare/>