

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

**CHAPTER: 2**  
**SECTION: 14**  
**TITLE: ATTENDANTS**

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**I. DEFINITIONS**

A. A medical attendant is a physician or nurse.

B. A non-medical attendant is a relative or someone who attends and takes care of the beneficiary such as the spouse, parent, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, niece or nephew of the beneficiary by blood or marriage.

**II. POLICY**

A. Preauthorization is required.

B. An attendant may be authorized to accompany a beneficiary when it is determined to be necessary because of the beneficiary's physical or mental condition.

C. Relatives of beneficiaries may act as non-medical attendants, provided that their services are safe, convenient, appropriate and medically necessary.

D. Use of a physician or nurse attendant will be authorized only when determined medically necessary to accompany the patient for a medical reason.

**III. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

A. Authorized attendants are entitled to the necessary expenses of travel only while accompanying the beneficiary (see [Chapter 3, Section 2.1](#), *Attendant Reimbursement*).

B. If a relative or friend is a non-medical attendant escorting a beneficiary who was held for the convenience of the VA or for some other medical reason, he or she may be furnished the same meals/lodging to which the beneficiary is entitled.

**\*END OF POLICY\***