



Catastrophically Disabled Veterans

Eligibility

A Veteran with severely disabling injury, disorder, or disease that permanently compromises the ability to carry out activities of daily living may be determined to be Catastrophically Disabled based on a VA clinical decision. The disability must be to such a degree that the Veteran requires personal or mechanical assistance to leave home or bed, or requires constant supervision to avoid physical harm to self or others.

Veterans determined to be Catastrophically Disabled are placed into Priority Group 4 unless eligible for a higher Priority Group based on other eligibility criteria, such as compensable service-connected disability, a former Prisoner of War, Medal of Honor, or Purple Heart recipient.

A Catastrophically Disabled evaluation can be completed either through a VA clinician's review of the patient's records or by the clinician conducting a medical examination. A Veteran, or the Veteran's representative, may request a Catastrophically Disabled evaluation by contacting the Enrollment Coordinator at any VA health care facility. It is VA policy to provide a Catastrophically Disabled evaluation to Veterans within 30 days of the request. There is no charge for this examination.

Copays

Public Law 111-163, Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, exempts Veterans determined by VA to be Catastrophically Disabled from inpatient, outpatient, and prescription copays. Veterans with catastrophic disabilities are also exempt from copayments related to non-institutional respite care, non-institutional geriatric evaluation, non-institutional adult day health care, Homemaker/Home Health Aide, Purchased Skilled Home Care, Home Based Primary Care, and other non-institutional alternative extended care services. Copayments still apply to other extended care services such as Nursing Home Care.

Additional Information

Each VA Medical Center has an Enrollment Coordinator available to provide information about VA health care. Veterans may call 1-877-222 VETS (8387) or visit www.va.gov/health-care/ to find the location of a VA medical facility.