



Reimbursement of Community Care Medical Expenses for Service-Connected Veterans

Benefit Description

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in limited circumstances, may provide reimbursement of Community Care medical expenses for Veterans for their service-connected conditions to include those who are recently granted service-connected awards.

General Qualifying Criteria

- VA or other Federal facility not feasibly available , and
- Care or service was for a service-connected disability

Time Limit For Filing Claim Of Community Care Medical Expenses:

Generally within 2 years of the date of service or notification of the allowance of a service-connected award (which may include care/services back to the effective date of award in cases of retroactive award – see example).

Retroactive Award Example

A Veteran is awarded service-connected status via a Veterans Benefits Administration award letter dated January 1, 2010. The Veteran filed the initial claim for service-connection on May 1, 2009. The service-connected award is retroactive to May 1, 2009.

The Veteran may file a claim for the retroactive reimbursement of the cost of medical care provided in a Community Care facility. VA shall reimburse the Veteran for such a retroactive claim only when:

- the care provided is for treatment of the Veteran's adjudicated service-connected condition(s), and
- the dates of service are not before May 1, 2009 (the effective date of the award), or
- after January 1, 2010 (the date of the award letter), and
- the claim is filed before January 1, 2012 (2 years after the date of the award letter).

Where to File Claims

Veterans may file a claim for private medical expenses with their local VA health care facility's Community Care medical care office.

For Further Information

Contact your local VA health care facility's Community Care medical care office or VA at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

Authorities: Title 38, United States Code, §1728 and
Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, §17.120-132.