

Veterans Choice Program Eligibility Details

A Veteran must be enrolled in VA health care and meet at least one of the following criteria.

a) The Veteran is told by his/her local VA medical facility that he/she will need to wait more than 30 days for an appointment from the date *clinically determined** by his/her physician or, if no such date is provided, the Veteran's preferred date.

*The clinically indicated date is the date a Veterans and his/her medical provider agree should be the next date he/she is seen for care. If the VA medical facility is unable to schedule an appointment up to 30 days from that date the Veteran may be eligible for the Veterans Choice Program.

b) The Veteran's current residence is more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest VA health care facility.

c) The Veteran resides in a location other than Guam, American Samoa, or the Republic of the Philippines and needs to travel by air, boat, or ferry to the VA medical facility closest to his/her home.

d) The Veteran faces an unusual or excessive burden in traveling to a VA medical facility based on geographic challenges, environmental factors, or a medical condition. Staff at the Veteran's local VA medical facility will work with him/ her to determine if he/ she is eligible for any of these reasons.

e) The Veteran resides in a State or a United States Territory without a full-service VA medical facility that provides hospital care, emergency services and surgical care having a surgical complexity of standard, and resides more than 20 miles from such a VA facility. NOTE: This criterion applies to Veterans residing in Alaska, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Also note that some Veterans in New Hampshire reside within 20 miles of White River Junction VAMC and are therefore not eligible for the Choice Program.

To verify eligibility, Veterans must call the Choice Program call center at:

866-606-8198