

VETERANS CHOICE PROGRAM (VCP)

Details on the Unusual or Excessive Burden Eligibility Criteria

Veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system **and** live more than 40 miles driving distance from the nearest VA medical facility with a full-time primary care physician may be eligible for the VCP. If Veterans have difficulty reaching the closest VA medical facility for any of a number of reasons listed below they could qualify under the unusual or excessive burden eligibility determination.

Burdens	Details	Examples
 Geographic Challenges	A Veteran needs to travel around a large body of water, over a mountain, or needs to navigate a similar geographic barrier.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crossing a mountain range • Navigating across a wide lake
 Environmental Factors	A Veteran's trip to the closest VA medical facility is blocked by traffic conditions such as a road that is inaccessible to the general public, or a prolonged road closure, or by hazardous weather conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads blocked by military bases or other restricted areas • Road closures due to construction • Roads that are particularly dangerous during winter
 Medical Condition	A Veteran has a medical condition, as confirmed by the local medical facility's Primary Care Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT Team), which impacts his or her ability to travel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision problems • Limited mobility • Reduced focus or mental sharpness
 Other Factors	<p>A Veteran could be determined eligible based on the nature, simplicity, or frequency of the care he or she needs.</p> <p>This includes instances where a Veteran's VA medical provider confirms that he or she requires an attendant to accompany him or her to a medical appointment either because of a medical condition or the type of procedure needed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outpatient physical therapy • Certain IV (parenteral infusions) • Upper and/or lower extremity joint or soft tissue (trigger point) injections • Optometry care such as a glaucoma screening or a diabetic retinal exam • Hearing evaluation • Allergy shots

If you think you may be eligible for the VCP based on one of the reasons listed above, please contact your local VA medical facility. A staff member will work with you to determine eligibility. If you are determined eligible, staff will provide you with information about making an appointment for care through the program. **To learn more about the VCP visit: [Veterans Choice Program website.](#)**