

# *Geriatric and Extended Care (GEC)*

An Overview of VA Services

# Veteran Directed Care

- This program is for Veterans who need personal care services and help with activities of daily living. Examples include help with bathing, dressing, or fixing meals. This program is also for Veterans who are isolated, or their caregiver is experiencing burden.
- Veterans in this program are given a budget for services that is managed by the Veteran or the Veteran's representative. With the help of a counselor, Veterans hire their own workers to meet their daily needs to help them live at home or in their community.
- As a part of this program, Veterans or their representatives receive help developing a spending plan and hiring workers (which might include their own family member or neighbor) to help Veterans live independently in the community.
- Based on needs assessment, similar to Home Health Aide criteria
- No Service Connection required
- Varies by location and catchment area

# Home Based Primary Care

- Home Based Primary Care is health care services provided to Veterans in their home. The program is for Veterans who need team based in-home support for ongoing diseases and illnesses that affect their health and daily activities.
- Veterans usually have difficulty making and keeping clinic visits because of the severity of their illness and are often homebound, but that is not required.
- This program is also for Veterans who are isolated, or their caregiver is experiencing burden. Home Based Primary Care can be used in combination with other Home and Community Based Services.
- Requires a physician's consult
- Any veteran is eligible regardless of Service Connection.
- Replaces Primary Care Team and includes medical care, therapies, labs, Mental Health, Social Work

# Homemaker and Home Health Aide Care

- Based on physical need
- Assessment for hours needed
- No Service Connection required
- Referral generally through VA PACT Social Worker
- Copay may be required
- Agency assigned and scheduled through veteran
- Assistance with eating, dressing, grooming, bathing, toileting, ambulating/transfer
- Possible light housekeeping if approved

# Respite Care

- **There are two types of respite:**
  - **Home Respite Care** is a service that pays for a person to come to a Veteran's home or for a Veteran to go to an adult day health care program while their family caregiver takes a break or runs errands.
  - **Nursing Home Respite Care** is a service that pays for a Veteran to go to a nursing home while the family goes out of town for a few days without worrying about leaving the Veteran alone at home. Nursing home respite may take place in a VA Community Living Center or a community nursing home and is available for a maximum of 30 days each calendar year. This type of respite should be scheduled in advance. Services may vary by location.
- All enrolled Veterans are eligible for **Respite Care** IF they meet the clinical criteria for the service and it is available. A copay may apply.
- Generally apply through PACT Social Worker

# Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA)

- This benefit provides medically necessary improvements and structural alterations to Veterans primary residence for the following purposes:
- Allowing entrance/exit, use of essential lavatory and sanitary facilities (e.g. roll in showers), allow accessibility to kitchen or bathroom sinks or counters (e.g. lowering counters/sinks)
- Improving entrance paths or driveways in immediate area of the home to facilitate access to the home through construction of permanent ramping. Improving plumbing or electrical systems made necessary due to installation of home medical equipment
- HISA will **not** pay for:
  - Walkways to exterior buildings, Spa, hot tub, or Jacuzzi, Exterior decking, New construction
  - Requires a consult placed by treating VA physician (application process located on VA website)
- **HISA Benefit Amounts**

Lifetime benefit for Veterans and Servicemembers.

**\$6,800** will be approved to:

  - Address a service-connected disability
  - Address a non-service- connected disability, if the beneficiary has a service-connected disability rated at least 50 percent disability (no combining or combination of disability percentages is allowed).

**\$2,000** will be approved to:  
Address a disability that is not covered above

# VA Contracted SNF, Community Living Centers (CLC) and State Veteran Homes (SVH)

- VA will pay for LTC in community contracted nursing home care for 70-100% SC veterans who meet eligibility criteria for LTC.
- There is a 31 Day Contract for all other veterans
- There are 8 SVH and 1 State ALF located in Florida for long term care needs
- There are 8\* CLCs located in Florida for long term care needs. CLC provides long term care for 70-100% SC. Any veteran is eligible for short term rehabilitation.
- Medical Foster Home (MFH)

# Adult Day Care

- VA contracted partners
- May be a copay based on ability to pay
- Form 10-10EC
- Referral generally through PACT
- Transportation may be provided
- No Service Connection required



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