

Outpatient Dental Treatment

Dental benefits are provided by VA according to law. In some instances, VA is authorized to provide extensive dental care, while in other cases treatment may be limited by law. This Fact Sheet table describes dental eligibility criteria and contains information to assist Veterans in understanding their eligibility for VA dental care.

By law, the eligibility for Outpatient Dental Care is not the same as for most other VA medical benefits. It is categorized in classes. Those eligible for VA dental care under Class I, IIC, or IV are eligible for any necessary dental care to maintain or restore oral health and masticatory function, including repeat care. Other classes have time and/or service limitations.

***Note:** Public Law 83 enacted June 16, 1955, amended Veterans' eligibility for outpatient dental services. As a result, any Veteran who received a dental award letter from VBA dated before 1955 in which VBA determined the dental conditions to be noncompensable are no longer eligible for Class II outpatient dental treatment.

Veterans receiving hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care will be provided dental services that are professionally determined by a VA dentist, in consultation with the referring physician, to be essential to the management of the patient's medical condition under active treatment. For more information about eligibility for VA medical and dental benefits, contact VA at 1-877-222-8387 8387, Monday through Friday between 8:00am and 8:00pm Eastern time or www.va.gov/healthbenefits

If you:	You are eligible for:	Through
Have a service-connected compensable dental disability or condition.	Any needed dental care.	Class I
Are a former prisoner of war.	Any needed dental care.	Class IIC
Have service-connected disabilities rated 100 percent disabling, or are unemployable and paid at the 100 percent rate due to service-connected conditions.	Any needed dental care. [note: Veterans paid at the 100 percent rate based on a temporary rating, are not eligible for comprehensive outpatient dental services.	Class IV
Apply for dental care within 180 days of discharge or release from of active duty (under conditions other than dishonorable) of 90 days or more during the Gulf War era.	One-time dental care if a DD214 certificate of discharge does not indicate that a complete dental examination and all appropriate dental treatment had been rendered prior to discharge. (NOTE)	Class II
Have a service-connected noncompensable dental condition or disability resulting from combat wounds or service trauma.	Any dental care necessary to provide and maintain a functioning dentition. A Dental Trauma Rating (VA Form 10-564-D) or VA Regional Office Rating Decision letter (VA Form 10-7131) identifies the tooth/teeth that are trauma rated.	Class IIA
Have a dental condition clinically determined by VA to be associated with and aggravating a service-connected medical condition.	Dental care to treat the oral conditions that are determined by a VA dental professional to have a direct and material detrimental effect to a service-connected medical condition.	Class III
Are actively engaged in a 38 USC Chapter 31 vocational rehabilitation program.	Dental care to the extent necessary to: to enter, achieve goals, and prevent interruption of a rehab program; hasten the return to a rehab program because of a dental condition; or to secure and adjust to employment during employment assistance, or enable to achieve maximum independence in daily living.	Class V
Are receiving VA care or are scheduled for inpatient care and require dental care for a condition complicating a current medical condition	Dental care to treat the oral conditions that are determined by a VA dental professional to complicate a medical condition currently under treatment.	Class VI
Are an enrolled Veteran who may be homeless and receiving care under VHA Directive 2007-039.	A one-time course of dental care that is determined medically necessary to relieve pain, assist in gaining employment, or treat moderate to severe gingival and periodontal conditions.	Class IIB