

November 21, 2007

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR A ONE-TIME COURSE OF DENTAL CARE FOR CERTAIN HOMELESS AND OTHER ENROLLED VETERANS

1. PURPOSE: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive defines the eligibility guidelines for a one-time course of dental care for certain homeless and other enrolled veterans.

2. BACKGROUND: Title 38 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 2062 establishes authority for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide limited outpatient dental benefits as described below. Dental benefits provided under Title 38 U.S.C. § 2062 are to be furnished on a one-time course of dental care that is provided in the same manner as the dental benefits provided to a veteran newly discharged from military service.

3. POLICY: It is VHA policy that outpatient dental services and treatment considered medically necessary are provided to certain homeless and other veterans in accordance with subparagraph 4b.

4. ACTION: The medical facility Director is responsible for ensuring that:

a. Dental services and treatment that are provided to eligible veterans are:

(1) Necessary for the veteran to successfully gain or regain employment; or

(2) Necessary to alleviate pain or treat moderate, severe, or complicated and severe gingival and periodontal pathology.

b. The veteran is eligible for outpatient dental services and treatment, which means:

(1) The veteran is enrolled in VA's health care system; and

(2) The veteran is receiving care (directly or by contract) for a period of 60 consecutive days in any of the following settings:

(a) A Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Program.

(b) A Compensated Work Therapy-Transitional Residence.

(c) A Community Residential Care Program home, if VA coordinated the placement.

(d) A community based resident treatment program serving homeless veterans under the Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) program.

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(e) A setting operated by a provider to whom VA provides grant and per-diem funds under VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program.

c. Veterans referred for dental care under this program are enrolled in the VA Health Care System.

d. The facility Veterans Homeless Coordinator is designated as the point of contact to verify that veterans are receiving care in an eligible setting for at least 60 consecutive days.

e. The facility Dental Service reports dental workload data for homeless veterans participating in the Program under the Class VI dental outpatient category.

5. REFERENCE: Public Law 107-95; Title 38 U.S.C., Sections 1712(a)(1)(H) and 2062.

6. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY: The Chief Business Office (16) is responsible for the content of this Directive. Questions may be directed to (202) 254-0329.

7. RESCISSION: VHA Directive 2002-080 is rescinded. This VHA Directive expires November 30, 2012.

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