



RENSSELAER COUNTY VETERANS NEWSLETTER

Rensselaer County
Unified Family Services
Veterans Service Agency
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Director

Emergency Care in Non-VA Facilities

Van Transportation...

- * **Don't drive** and need to get to the VA Medical Center or the Troy VA Clinic!?
- * We offer complimentary van transportation to and from the VAMC and Clinic for *most morning* medical appointments.

For more details call 270-2760.



CEO's Transport-A-Hero Program

This program needs you! Would you like to give back to those who were willing to give up their lives for you? CEO needs drivers who can volunteer several hours a week to drive veterans from Rensselaer County to their medical appointments.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Elaine Gerwin at 272-6012, Ext.302.

What is an emergency?

A medical emergency is when you have an injury or illness that is so severe that without immediate treatment, the injury or illness threatens your health or life.

How do I know my situation is an emergency?

Use your best judgment. If you believe that your health or life is in danger, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.

If I believe my life or health is in danger, do I need to call the VA before I call for an ambulance or go into the emergency room?

No. Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room right away.

Do I need to notify the VA after an ambulance takes me to an emergency room, or when I am treated and released?

Yes. You, your family, friends or hospital staff should contact the nearest VA medical center as soon as possible-preferably within 72 hours, so you are better aware of services the VA may limit payment for. Provide the VA with information about your emergency event and services being provided to you. Ask the VA for guidance on how they will consider reimbursing these emergency charges on your behalf, so you can plan accordingly.

If the doctor then wants to admit me to the hospital, must I obtain advance approval from the VA?

- If the admission is an emergency-NO, although prompt notification of the VA is necessary.
- If the admission is not an emergency-YES.

If a VA bed is available and I can be safely transferred, do I have to move to the VA hospital?

Yes. If you refuse to be transferred, the VA will not pay for any further care.

If I am admitted to the hospital as a result of an emergency, how much will VA pay?

This depends on your VA eligibility. The VA may pay all, some, or none of the charges. Ask your local VA medical center's patient benefits counselor about what is allowed under non-VA emergency care programs:

- For service-connected conditions
- For non-service-connected conditions

Will I have to pay for any part of my emergency care?

It is possible. Sometimes co-pays are required based on your VA enrollment. Sometimes the extent of healthcare services reimbursable by the VA are limited by federal law.

(Cont'd page 2)

Emergency Care in Non-VA Facilities cont'd from Page 1

Will VA pay for the ambulance and any possible emergency room charges if I leave the emergency room before being treated by a doctor?

Possibly not. If you leave the emergency room prior to being treated by a physician, the VA may not consider claims for that emergency event. You may be liable for some or all resulting ambulance and emergency room charges, regardless of your veteran eligibility.

Does my enrollment in the VA Health Care System affect my eligibility for emergency care at VA expense?

Yes. Your local VA medical center's benefits counselor can explain how enrollment (or other special status categories) affect your eligibility.

If I have other insurance (TRICARE, Medicare, Medicaid, Blue Cross, Etc.), will it affect whether claims for emergency services will be paid at VA expense?

Yes, it may. Your local VA medical center's benefits counselor can explain how other insurance can affect whether the VA can pay for your non-VA medical claims.

Will VA pay for emergency care if I am in jail?

No. The VA is prohibited, by federal law, from paying for the medical claims of incarcerated veterans (or fugitive felons).

How Long do I have to file a claim for reimbursement for emergency medical care?

File your claim with the nearest VA medical center quickly. Time limits of 90-days usually apply. Contact your local VA medical center's patient benefits counselor for more information on the timely filing requirements for non-VA care programs.

Will VA pay for emergency care received outside the United States?

Yes, in certain cases. VA will only pay for emergency care outside the US if your emergency is related to a service-connected condition. For more information, contact the VA Health Administration Center at (877)345-8179 or consult this web site <http://www4.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/fmp/fmp.asp>

Nearest local VA medical center is in Albany, NY. You may contact them at (518) 626-5000.

SPECIAL NOTE TO THE UN-REARRIED WIDOWS OF VIETNAM VETERANS— IF THE VETERAN PASSED AWAY DUE TO ONE OF THE PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS OF EXPOSURE TO AGENT ORANGE AND IT IS CLEARLY NOTED AS A CAUSE OF DEATH ON THE DEATH CERTIFICATE, YOU MAY BE ELGIBILE FOR DIC BENEFITS THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS. ANY QUESTIONS IN REGARDS TO THESE BENEFITS, PLEASE CALL THE RENSELAER COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY AT 270-2760.

Upcoming Events:



*Call us by the 15th of the month
and we will list your event .*

March 14...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 a.m., **John M. Hall, US Navy, WWII**

April 11...Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 a.m. **Wayne B. Hotaling, US Coast Guard, Vietnam Era**

May 9...Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 a.m. **Thomas F. Roberts, US Navy, WWII MIA/KIA**

May 29...Rensselaer Memorial Day Parade, step-off at 2:00 p.m.

May 30 Memorial Day— **Office Closed**

May 30...Veterans of Lansingburgh 15th Annual Memorial Day Parade, kick off at 11:00 a.m.

May 30...North Greenbush Memorial Day Parade, step off at 1:30 p.m.

May 31...Nassau Memorial Day Parade, kick off at 2:00 p.m.