

Thank you for inquiring about health care benefits under the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA).

#### Who is Eligible for CHAMPVA

To be eligible for CHAMPVA you must be the spouse, widow/widower or child of a veteran who:

- 1 - is rated permanently and totally disabled from a service-connected condition or
- 2 - died from a service-connected disability
- 3 - died while in an active-duty status and the dependents/survivors are not eligible for DoD TRICARE benefits (formerly CHAMPUS).

#### Eligibility For Those Age 65 and Older

Effective October 1, 2001, CHAMPVA benefits were extended to beneficiaries age 65 and older. To be eligible, you must also meet the following conditions:

- Your veteran sponsor is not a retired military member (these family members are normally eligible for TRICARE for Life).
- if the beneficiary was 65 or older prior to June 5, 2001, and was **otherwise eligible** for CHAMPVA, and was entitled to Medicare Part A coverage, then the beneficiary will be eligible for CHAMPVA without having to have Medicare Part B coverage.
- If you turned 65 before June 5, 2001, and have Medicare Parts A and B, you must keep both Parts to be eligible.
- If you turned age 65 on or after June 5, 2001, you must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B to be eligible.

#### Special Information for Those Age 65 and Older

We have enclosed a fact sheet on CHAMPVA for those age 65 and older since there are many questions about this part of the CHAMPVA program.

#### When Benefits Start

You can use CHAMPVA after you receive your CHAMPVA Authorization card (A-card), which is sent with a handbook and other materials you need.

## How to Apply

### Required Documents

To apply for CHAMPVA benefits, you must submit the following documents:

- Application for CHAMPVA Benefits form (VA Form 10-10d) which is enclosed
- Other Health Insurance (OHI) Certification form (VA Form 10-7959c) which is enclosed
- For individuals who are eligible for Medicare (normally those age 65 and older), we also need a copy of your Medicare card (please do not send originals).
- If you are age 65 or older and are not entitled to Medicare, you must send documentation from the Social Security Administration which confirms that you are not entitled to Medicare benefits under anyone's Social Security number.

### Optional Documents

You can speed the processing of your application, if you also submit copies of the following documents (please do not send originals):

- Veteran and spouse marriage license
- Birth certificate/adoption papers for children
- The page from the VBA rating decision that shows the veteran has a service-connected disability, or grants chapter 35 benefits and/or dependents educational assistance and the effective date it was granted
- If you are a remarried widow/widower and are no longer married, provide a copy of the legal documentation that terminated the remarriage. The legal documentation of termination of a remarriage may be a divorce decree, death certificate or annulment decree.
- School certification of full-time enrollment for children ages 18–23

Send your complete package to:

CHAMPVA-Eligibility  
PO Box 469028  
Denver, CO 80246-9028

### Application Process

If you provide all the required and optional documents, and if your application is complete, then it normally takes 3–6 weeks after we get your package until you get

your CHAMPVA A-card and related materials.

If you provide only the required documents, processing can take 2–8 months since we have to confirm information with other federal agencies.

Once we get your application, we will review it to be sure its complete and that all the required forms are included. If your application is not complete, we will return it to you with further instructions.

### **How to Learn More About CHAMPVA Before Your Card Arrives**

If you have access to the Internet, you can read more about CHAMPVA by checking out our web site at [www.va.gov/hac](http://www.va.gov/hac)

### **Where can I go for information about benefits for surviving spouses and dependents of military personnel who died while in active military service and to the survivors of veterans who died after active service?**

For information about benefits for surviving spouses and dependents of military personnel who died while in active military service and to the survivors of veterans who died after active service please visit the Survivor Benefits Home Page at [www.vba.va.gov/survivors](http://www.vba.va.gov/survivors)

### **How do I get more information?**

- Mail: VA Health Administration Center  
CHAMPVA  
PO Box 469063  
Denver, CO 80246-9063
- Phone: 1-800-733-8387
- Email: Follow the directions for submitting secure email  
at this web link: <http://www.va.gov/hac/contact>

Web: [www.va.gov/hac](http://www.va.gov/hac)

### **Enclosures**

We have enclosed several items with this letter:

- Application for Benefits, VA Form 10-10d
- Other Health Insurance Certification, VA Form 10-7959c (and a supplemental information sheet and samples of a completed form)
- CHAMPVA Brochure
- Fact Sheet 01-04 CHAMPVA Program