

What is the Spina Bifida Health Care Program?

The Spina Bifida Health Care Program is a federal health benefit program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs for Vietnam veterans' and certain Korean veterans' birth children who have been diagnosed with spina bifida (except spina bifida occulta). To be eligible for the Spina Bifida Health Care Program, you must first be eligible for a monetary award under the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). The Denver VA Regional Office makes the determination regarding that entitlement. Information regarding application for benefits may be obtained by calling the Denver VA Regional Office at 1-888-820-1756 and selecting option 2. If the VA Regional Office makes a monetary award, we are provided that information and you are enrolled in the Spina Bifida Health Care Program and informed of the enrollment by our office.

If I am informed that I am eligible for the Spina Bifida Health Care Program, must I (or my medical provider) submit medical documentation every time a bill is submitted to the Health Administration Center (HAC) for payment?

Medical care related to spina bifida and/or an associated medical condition is covered. The following medical conditions are *always* considered to be associated with spina bifida if they are present with that condition. As a result, additional medical documentation is not needed if the care is for spina bifida or one of these related conditions.

If the medical condition is not on this list, medical documentation must be submitted to include how the condition is due to spina bifida.

- Arnold-Chiari malformation
- Blindness secondary to hydrocephalus and/or shunt infection
- Club foot
- Decubitus ulcers
- Hip dislocation
- Hydrocephalus
- Kidney disease
- Kyphosis
- Latex allergy

- Lordosis
- Neurogenic bladder
- Paraplegia
- Quadriplegia
- Scoliosis
- Seizure disorder secondary to hydrocephalus
- Shunt infection
- Shunt malfunction
- Solitary kidney
- Syringomyelia
- Tethered spinal cord
- Urinary track infection

How do I get more information?

- Check out our web site at www.va.gov/hac, select Spina Bifida
- Write us at PO Box 469065, Denver, CO 80246-9065
- To contact us by email, please go to this web link and follow the directions for submitting secure email: <http://www.va.gov/hac/contact>
- Call 1-888-820-1756