

What is CHAMPVA?

CHAMPVA is a health benefits program in which the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) shares the cost of certain health care services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries (see Eligibility Fact Sheet 01-03 for criteria for CHAMPVA coverage). CHAMPVA is managed by the VA's Health Administration Center (HAC) in Denver, Colorado. HAC processes CHAMPVA applications, determines eligibility, authorizes benefits, and processes medical claims.

What kind of certification is required for individuals between age 18 and 23 who are in school?

To avoid an interruption in benefits for the summer break between high school and first semester/quarter of higher education, the student should provide a letter of intention or pre-enrollment letter indicating the student's intent for fall enrollment. An acceptance letter from the school may be used for this purpose.

First certification of full-time student status:

When enrolled as a full-time student a certification letter must be submitted to the HAC within one month after the first semester/quarter begins to establish CHAMPVA eligibility. The letter must be on school letterhead and should include student's full name, Social Security number; beginning and ending dates, projected graduation date, number of semester hours or equivalent (high schools excluded), title and signature of school official.

Student status may be established up to a full school term based on the initial enrollment letter from the accredited educational institution, that is, four years for traditional schooling programs, two years for technical schooling programs or age 23, whichever occurs first.

Recertification of full-time student status:

Thereafter, an annual recertification letter from the student stating that they are still enrolled in an accredited educational institution on a full-time basis is required until graduation or age 23, whichever occurs first.

Must a student be enrolled in a specific type of school to be eligible for CHAMPVA?

Schools may include high school; vocational or technical school; junior colleges; and colleges and universities that are accredited by a nationally recognized agency or association.

How many class hours must a student be taking to be eligible for CHAMPVA?

Full-time attendance is defined as twelve semester credit hours for spring or fall semesters or the equivalent number of hours on a quarter-based academic calendar (rather than semesters).

What information must be in a certification?

Certifications should be on school letterhead or computer generated forms and should include:

- student's full name
- student's Social Security number (SSN)
- exact beginning and ending dates of each semester or enrollment term
- number of semester hours or equivalent (not required for high school) certifying full-time status
- signature and title of a school official

Can the certification be in a foreign language?

Yes, however, additional time will be required for translation.

Where does the school send the certification?

- Mail: VA Health Administration Center
Eligibility
PO Box 469028
Denver, CO 80246-9028
- FAX: 1-303-331-7809

What is required if the student changes status?

- Immediately notify the Health Administration Center at the address below.
- Changes from full-time to part-time and withdrawals from school will result in termination of CHAMPVA eligibility.

It is not necessary to report school vacation periods; these do not affect eligibility status.

How do I get more information?

- Mail: VA Health Administration Center
CHAMPVA
PO Box 469063
Denver, CO 80206-9063
- Phone: 1-800-733-8387
- FAX: 1-303-331-7804
- Email: Follow the directions for submitting secure email at this web link: <http://www.va.gov/hac/contact>
- Website: www.va.gov/hac