



# VA HEALTH CARE

Fact Sheet 164-5

May 2009

## Purple Heart Medal Recipients

On November 30, 1999, Congress passed the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act. This new law made important health care benefits changes for veterans awarded the Purple Heart medal.

### Additional Health Care Benefits for Purple Heart Medal Recipients

Enhanced enrollment in Priority Group 3 (unless enrolled in Priority Group 1 or 2);

- Exemption from copays for hospital care and medical outpatient care. This exemption does not include copays for medication and long term care.
- Eligibility for Sensory Neural Aids.

**Note:** There are no special benefits for beneficiary travel.

### What You Need to Do

If you are a Purple Heart Medal recipient and **not currently enrolled** to receive VA medical benefits, you may provide documentation to support receipt of the medal along with VA Form 10-10EZ, "Application for Medical Benefits." Be sure to sign and date the application. You can obtain this form by:

- Visiting our web site, [www.va.gov/1010EZ.htm](http://www.va.gov/1010EZ.htm)
- Visiting, calling, or writing any VA health care facility (<http://www.va.gov/directory/>) or Veterans Benefits Office
- Calling VA's Health Benefits Service Center, toll free at 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. eastern time

You may take or mail this information to your nearest VA health care facility. Supporting documentation may be any of the following:

- DD214 (Discharge)
- DD215 (Discharge Update)
- WD AGO - War Department Adjutant General's Office Form
- Service records showing the award
- Military orders of the award

**Note:** The actual Purple Heart medal or a Certificate of Award, in and of itself, will not suffice for verification purposes without the submission of one of the documents noted above.

If you are **currently enrolled** and have not provided VA with information that you are a Purple Heart Medal recipient and would like to update your records with us, please do so as indicated above, or mail a copy to:

VA's Health Eligibility Center  
2957 Clairmont Road, NE, Ste 200  
Atlanta, Georgia 30329.

If you prefer, you may fax supporting documentation to the Health Eligibility Center at 404-828-5060.

## What We Will Do

- Include your Purple Heart Award documentation in your VA records and update our computer database;
- Reimburse verified Purple Heart recipients for any medical care copays that were made on or after November 30, 1999. This does not include pharmacy or long term care copays. There must also be verifiable evidence on file that you received the Purple Heart Award before the reimbursement will be made.

## If You Need Additional Assistance

- The Enrollment Coordinator at the nearest VA medical center can help you find sources of documentation or complete the Standard Form 180 "Request Pertaining to Military Records." This form can be obtained on the web at <http://www.archives.gov/research/order/standard-form-180.pdf>;
- Contact your local veteran's service organization for assistance.
- Service Center toll free at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).