



# VA HEALTH CARE

Fact Sheet 16-7  
August 2008

## Reimbursement Of Non-VA Medical Expenses For Service-Connected Veterans

### Benefit Description

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in limited circumstances, may provide reimbursement of non-VA medical expenses for veterans for their service-connected conditions to include those who are recently granted service-connected awards.

### General Qualifying Criteria

- A medical emergency
- VA or other Federal facility not feasibly available
- Care or service was for a service-connected disability

### Time Limit For Filing Claim Of Non-VA Medical Expenses:

Generally within 2 years of the date of service or notification of the allowance of a service-connected award (which may include care/services back to the effective date of award in cases of retroactive award – see example).

### Retroactive Award Example

A veteran is awarded service-connected status via a Veterans Benefits Administration award letter dated January 1, 2007. The veteran filed the initial claim for service-connection on May 1, 2006. The service-connected award is retroactive to May 1, 2006.

The veteran may file a claim for private medical expenses care of the service-connected condition from May 1, 2006 forward as long as this claim is filed by January 1, 2009.

### Where to File Claims

Veterans may file a claim for private medical expenses with their local VA health care facility's Fee Basis office.

### For Further Information

Contact your local VA health care facility's Fee Basis office or the Health Benefits Services Call Center at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

**Authorities:** Title 38, United States Code, §1728 and Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, §§17.120-132.