



VA HEALTH CARE

Fact Sheet 16-7

July 2010

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, 2010. The veteran filed the initial claim for service-connection on May 1, 2009. The service-connected award is retroactive to May 1, 2009.

The veteran may file a claim for private medical expenses care of the service-connected condition from May 1, 2009 forward as long as this claim is filed by January 1, 2012.

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 VA at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

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