

Veteran Services

Health Care Benefits: Maximizing Resources

To learn more about enrollment and the application procedure, please call the Veterans Administration Health Benefits Services Center at **1-877-222-8387**.

Upon enrollment, veterans are placed in an Enrollment Priority Groups and receive a category between 1 and 8, with 1 being the highest priority group. Veterans in enrollment group 5 or higher, having sustained a brain injury may qualify for the Priority 4 group through a formal Catastrophic Disability Evaluation. Identifying a veteran as catastrophically disabled may help to maximize the VA health care benefits. The provider, the veteran, or his/her representative may request the evaluation.

http://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/resources/priority_groups.asp

Active duty, retired service members, and retired reservists may be eligible for health care under the military health system. Information regarding eligibility and benefits under TRICARE can be found at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/>.

Veterans covered under other insurance providers may be able to obtain TBI-specific services closer to their home.

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA): Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program

Veterans who have a service-connected disability that was incurred or aggravated in service are potentially eligible for vocational rehabilitation services. VR&E Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors in the VBA Regional Offices will determine if a veteran is entitled and demonstrates a need for vocational rehabilitation services in order to prepare for employment. Information on location of VBA Regional offices is available at <http://www1.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp>.

Independent Living Program

Independent living generally refers to the empowering of individuals to take control of their own lives, live autonomously and participate fully in society. Independent living services are provided through the Department of Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation and

Employment Program. Services-connected veterans with TBI should apply for Chapter 31 benefits through VR&E for Independent Living Services.

Homeless

The VA also offers specialized treatment programs for homeless veterans. Services may include domiciliary care, a supported housing program, and comprehensive homeless centers.

For additional information: www.va.gov/homeless

For information on federal benefits: www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp