The Children of Women Vietnam Veterans (CWVV) Health Care Benefits Program

What is the CWVV Health Care Benefits Program?

CWVV is a federal health care benefits program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for children with certain birth defects born to women Vietnam Veterans. CWVV is a fee for service (indemnity plan) program that provides reimbursement for medical care-related conditions associated with certain covered birth defects.

A covered birth defect is any birth defect identified by VA as one that is associated with the service of women Vietnam Veterans in the Republic of Vietnam and that has resulted, or may result, in a permanent physical or mental disability for the Veteran's birth child.

Who is eligible for CWVV?

Children whose biological mother is a Vietnam Veteran, who were conceived after the date on which the Veteran entered the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning February 28, 1961, and ending May 7, 1975, and who have one of the covered birth defects.

Eligibility must first be established for a monetary award by the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) at the Denver VA Regional Office. Once the VBA makes a determination regarding entitlement, they provide that information to the VHA Office of Community Care (VHA CC) and enrollment in CWVV is automatic.

Is preauthorization required for services?

Preauthorization is required for the following services:

- Attendants
- Dental services
- Durable medical equipment in excess of $2,000
- Mental health services
- Organ and bone marrow transplants
- Substance abuse treatment
- Training of family members
- Travel (other than mileage for privately owned automobiles for local travel)

Requests for preauthorization may be made by fax or in writing to VHA CC. If preauthorization relates to a medical service or supply, the provider should submit the request.

When is preauthorization required for travel?

Travel to a physician in your local commuting area (fewer than 50 miles from your home) does not require preauthorization. If your local attending physician recommends that you be examined/treated by a specialist that is not in your local area (someone who is in another part of the state or country), you will need to obtain preauthorization.

The request for preauthorization for travel should include your attending physician's recommendation for evaluation, an explanation of why the service cannot be performed by a specialist in the local area, and the name and address of the physician to whom you are being referred.

When is travel not covered?

Travel will not be covered in the following circumstances:

- When a provider in your local area could provide the same services sought from a provider outside of the local area
- When an ambulance is not medically necessary or required and is used in lieu of regular transportation such as a privately-owned vehicle or taxi
- For reasons other than medical or therapy appointments (for example, travel to attend meetings or conferences)

How does CWVV reimburse for services?

CWVV allowable amounts are determined using the same methodology as applied to the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) – in most cases, amounts are equivalent to Medicare rates. There are no copayments or deductibles for beneficiaries; CWVV pays 100% of the VA-determined allowable amount. Normally, 95% of claims are paid within 30 days of receipt.

Whom do I contact for eligibility and enrollment?

Please contact the Denver VA Regional Office by phone at 303-914-2900 or by fax at 303-914-5903, or send an email to *bdefects.vbaden@va.gov* for information regarding eligibility or enrollment.

How do I get more information about CWVV?

- Mail: VHA Office of Community Care
  Children of Women Vietnam Veterans
  PO Box 469065, Denver CO 80246-9065

- Phone: 1-888-820-1756, Monday-Friday
  8:05 a.m. to 6:45 p.m., Eastern Standard Time

- Email: Follow the directions for submitting email via IRIS at *https://iris.custhelp.com/app/ask*

- Website: *http://www.va.gov/purchasedcare/*