



**Town of Sharon**  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES  
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Dear Veteran:

Veteran Affairs health care benefits are determined by legislation and evidence the VA has on file for a specific veteran.

Veteran has to apply to the VA for determination. VA benefits are determined by each element of the VA. Therefore, you cannot assume if you are approved by one element that you are automatically included on each element data file and enrolled.

Disability compensation rating is administered by the VA Benefit Regional Office. Their determination is used by the VA Medical Care element when the veteran applies for medical care at a VA medical facility.

Medical care enrollment is done at local VA medical care hospital by the veteran. Veteran having documented rated disability by the VA benefit element presents VA approval letter to VA hospital. VA medical hospital staff assigns veteran a priority group which determines service connected disability treatment and co-pay, if applicable, for medications or non-service connected medical treatment.

Criteria used by VA medical care hospital also includes situations such as purple heart award, VA pension etc.

Income limit is considered for veteran who applies for medical care and is only eligible for priority group 8 which is considered to be a veteran who does not have documented VA service connected disability to assign priority group 1 thru 3 (see va.gov. for priority group).

Priority group 8 annual income limit varies by location. Therefore, Massachusetts limit is different than Florida. Further income forces VA medical to assign specific co-pay that must be paid by veteran for care and medication. Income for about \$60,000 annual would result in veteran agreeing to pay full rate by VA for treatment and medication. Income as low as \$14,000 annual could result in veteran requesting and given waiver for charges.

In summary, you may be eligible for care at the VA for yourself but not your dependent. Co-pay may apply and amount changes based on situation. Each veteran case and evidence is determined independently.

Further information is available at VA.GOV, enrollment office of local VA hospital or local veteran service officer.

Very truly yours,

Paul R. Bergeron  
Director Veteran Services