



VA Health Care Priority Groups and Benefits

By: Robert Angerhofer



Priority Group 1

- VA may assign you to priority group 1 if any of these descriptions are true:
 - You have a service-connected disability that we've rated as 50% or more disabling, **or**
 - You have a service-connected disability that we've concluded makes you unable to work (also called unemployable), **or**
 - You received the Medal of Honor (MOH)



Priority Group 2

- VA may assign you to priority group 2 if you have a service-connected disability that they've rated as 30% or 40% disabling.



Priority Group 3

- VA may assign you to priority group 3 if any of these descriptions are true:
 - You're a former prisoner of war (POW), **or**
 - You received the Purple Heart medal, **or**
 - You were discharged for a disability that was caused by—or got worse because of—your active-duty service, **or**
 - You have a service-connected disability that we've rated as 10% or 20% disabling, **or**
 - You were awarded special eligibility classification under Title 38, U.S.C § 1151, "benefits for individuals disabled by treatment or vocational rehabilitation"



Priority Group 4

- VA may assign you to priority group 4 if either of these descriptions is true:
 - You're receiving VA aid and attendance or housebound benefits, or
 - You have received a VA determination of being catastrophically disabled



Priority Group 5

- VA may assign you to priority group 5 if any of these descriptions are true:
 - You don't have a service-connected disability, or you have a non-compensable service-connected disability that we've rated as 0% disabling, and you have an annual income level that's below our adjusted income limits (based on your resident zip code), or
 - You're receiving VA pension benefits, or
 - You're eligible for Medicaid programs



Priority Group 6

- Assignment based on disability rating or general service history.
- VA may assign you to priority group 6 if any of these descriptions are true:
 - You have a compensable service-connected disability that we've rated as 0% disabling, **or**
 - You participated in Project 112/SHAD, **or**
 - You served in World War II between December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946, **or**
 - You served in the Persian Gulf War between August 2, 1990, and November 11, 1998, **or**
 - You served on active duty at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987



Priority Group 6 Continued

- VA may also assign you to priority group 6 if all these descriptions are true for you:
 - You served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, and
 - You were discharged from active duty on or after October 1, 2013, and
 - You meet the minimum active-duty service requirement
- You'll have 10 years of enhanced eligibility from the date of your discharge or release. At the end of this 10-year period, they'll assign you to the highest priority group you qualify for.



Priority Group 6 Continued

- VA may also assign you to priority group 6 if you were exposed to toxins or other hazards during military service at home or abroad in any of the ways listed here.
- VA may assign you to priority group 6 if you participated in a toxic exposure risk activity (TERA) while serving on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training.
- VA may assign you to priority group 6 if you were assigned to a duty station (including airspace above) in certain locations during specific periods:
 - On or after August 2, 1990, in Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, or the United Arab Emirates, or
 - On or after September 11, 2001, in Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan, or any other country that we determine is relevant



Priority Group 6 Continued

- VA may assign you to priority group 6 if you were deployed in support of any of these operations:
 - Operation Enduring Freedom, **or**
 - Operation Freedom's Sentinel, **or**
 - Operation Iraqi Freedom, **or**
 - Operation New Dawn, **or**
 - Operation Inherent Resolve, **or**
 - Resolute Support Mission



Priority Group 6 Continued

- VA may assign you to priority group 6 if you were exposed to ionizing radiation in any of these ways:
 - During atmospheric testing, **or**
 - During the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, **or**
 - While conducting cleanup of Enewetak Atoll between January 1, 1977, and December 31, 1980, **or**
 - While participating in onsite response efforts in Palomares, Spain, between January 17, 1966, and March 31, 1967, **or**
 - While participating in onsite response efforts on Thule Air Force Base, Greenland between January 21, 1968, and September 25, 1968



Priority Group 6 Continued

- VA may assign you to priority group 6 if you were exposed to Agent Orange and served in any of these locations and time periods:
 - The Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, **or**
 - Thailand at any United States or Royal Thai base between January 9, 1962, and June 30, 1976, **or**
 - Laos between December 1, 1965, and September 30, 1969, **or**
 - Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province between April 16, 1969, and April 30, 1969, **or**
 - Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off of Guam or American Samoa between January 9, 1962, and July 31, 1980, **or**
 - Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll between January 1, 1972, and September 30, 1977



Priority Group 7

- VA may assign you to priority group 7 if both descriptions are true for you:
 - Your gross household income is below the geographically adjusted income limits (GMT) for where you live, **and**
 - You agree to pay copays



Priority Group 8

- VA may assign you to priority group 8 if both descriptions are true for you:
 - Your gross household income is above VA income limits and geographically adjusted income limits for where you live, and
 - You agree to pay copays
- If you're assigned to priority group 8, your eligibility for VA health care benefits will depend on which sub priority group we place you in.



Service-Connected Benefits

- **0% - and Higher:**
 - Certification of Eligibility for home loan guaranty
 - Outpatient treatment for:
 - Service-Connected conditions
 - For all medical conditions if enrolled in VA Health Care
 - Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance*
 - Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care of service-connected disabilities at VA
 - 10-point Civil Service Preference
 - Clothing allowances for eligible veterans
 - Prosthetic Devices for service-connected conditions
 - Temporary total evaluation (100%) based on hospitalization for service-connected disability*



Service-Connected Benefits

- **10% - 20% in addition to:**
 - Home loan guaranty fund fee exemption
 - Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling under Title 38 USC Chapter 31
 - Va Health Care assigned to priority Group 3
 - Widow may be eligible for burial and plot allowance when veteran passes
- **30% in addition to:**
 - Additional allowances for dependent(s)
 - Additional allowances for a spouse who requires aid and attendance
 - VA Health Care assigned to Priority Group 2
 - Eligible for travel pay for all appointments



Service-Connected Benefits

- 40% in addition to:
 - Automobile grant and/or special adaptive equipment for an automobile
 - Special adaptive equipment if eligible
 - VA Health Care assigned to Priority Group 2
 - SD Hunting and Fishing Card*
- 50% in addition to:
 - VA Health Care assigned to Priority Group 1*
 - If retired, veteran may be eligible for CRDP



Service-Connected Benefits

- 60% in addition to:
 - Increased compensation (100%) based on Individual Unemployability, if eligible
- 70% in addition to:
 - Nursing Home at VA expense if under VA care or in a VA approved facility



- 100% in addition to:
 - Dental treatment at VA
 - Department of Defense Commissary privileges
 - Veteran's employment preference for spouse
 - Waiver of National Service Life Insurance premiums
 - Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Grant, if eligible
 - Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) Grant, if eligible



- 100% P&T in addition to:
 - Civilian Health and Medical Program for dependents and survivors (CHAMPVA)
 - Survivors and dependents education assistance under Title 38 USC Chapter 35
 - SD Property Tax Exemption
 - SD Special License Plate
 - SD State Park entrance fee waiver



Questions

