


Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing 1570 Grant St., Denver, CO 80203-1818	NUMBER: HCPF 09-003
	CROSS REFERENCE:
DIVISION OR OFFICE: Administration & Operations Office	DATE: March 16, 2009
SUBJECT AREA: Coordination of Benefits	
SUBJECT: Opportunities for Additional Benefits for Veterans through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	APPROVED BY: 
TYPE: P - Procedure and I - Information	

*HCPF Agency Letters can be accessed online at:
www.chcpf.state.co.us >> County and Medical Assistance Site Correspondence >> Agency Letters*

Purpose:

The purpose of this agency letter is to advise County Departments of Human/Social Services about additional medical benefit opportunities for U.S. veterans through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in addition to Medicaid and how to share this information with individuals applying for Medicaid eligibility. Please share this agency letter with all affected Adult Medicaid eligibility staff, supervisors and outside agencies as appropriate.

Background:

Many veterans who are eligible for Medicaid benefits are also eligible for VA Health Care at VA facilities. Applying for VA medical benefits will provide an additional option for individuals who honorably served in the U.S. military. A determination of eligibility for VA benefits does not affect an individual's Medicaid eligibility but it does provide additional resources for the individual's health care. The counties can help veterans learn about these benefits by following the procedure below.

Procedure or Information:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration Facilities in Colorado, will provide educational brochures to the County Department of Human/Social Services in their service area. The service areas include:

- Eastern Colorado Health Care System:
 - Service area is east of the Continental Divide excluding Fort Collins and Greeley
- Grand Junction VA Medical Center
 - Service area is west of the Continental Divide
- Cheyenne VA Medical Center

- Service area in Colorado is Fort Collins and Greeley

A county can request more brochures by contacting a VA points of contact listed below. When an adult individual applies for Medicaid eligibility, the eligibility staff should ask whether the person seeking Medicaid is a veteran of the U.S. military. If the applicant responds “yes”, the staff should present the applicant with an educational brochure and state that the brochure contains contact information to learn how to apply for VA benefits. Please stress the following information when giving the brochure:

1. Applying for VA benefits eligibility does not affect Medicaid eligibility. It is important to remember that Medicaid benefits should be retained as eligible to cover any emergent treatment that the veteran may need outside of the VA Health Care system.
2. Veterans’ healthcare is exclusively for care rendered in a VA facility and not for care chosen by the veteran at other health care facilities or using their Medicaid providers.
3. Only the veteran can apply and receive VA health care benefits. Spouses, children or other relatives of the veteran are not eligible.
4. VA benefits may provide additional options to an individual when there is a shortage of Medicaid providers in the specialty needed.

Direct any questions about the VA program to the contact information in the brochure.

Effective Date:

March 16, 2009

Expiration Date:

March 16, 2011

Contact Persons:

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