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Reimbursement of Non-VA Medical Expenses for Service-Connected Veterans

Benefit Description

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in limited circumstances, may provide reimbursement of non-VA medical expenses for Veterans for their service-connected conditions to include those who are recently granted service-connected awards.

General Qualifying Criteria

- A medical emergency , and
- VA or other Federal facility not feasibly available , and
- Care or service was for a service-connected disability

Time Limit For Filing Claim Of Non-VA Medical Expenses:

Generally within 2 years of the date of service or notification of the allowance of a service-connected award (which may include care/services back to the effective date of award in cases of retroactive award – see example).

Retroactive Award Example

A Veteran is awarded service-connected status via a Veterans Benefits Administration award letter dated January 1, 2010. The Veteran filed the initial claim for service-connection on May 1, 2009. The service-connected award is retroactive to May 1, 2009.

The Veteran may file a claim for the retroactive reimbursement of the cost of medical care provided in a non-VA facility. VA shall reimburse the Veteran for such a retroactive claim only when:

- the care provided is for emergency medical care to treat the Veteran's adjudicated service-connected condition(s), and
- the dates of service are not before May 1, 2009 (the effective date of the award), or
- after January 1, 2010 (the date of the award letter), and
- the claim is filed before January 1, 2012 (2 years after the date of the award letter).

Where to File Claims

Veterans may file a claim for private medical expenses with their local VA health care facility's non-VA medical care office.

For Further Information

Contact your local VA health care facility's non-VA medical care office or VA at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

Authorities: Title 38, United States Code, §1728 and Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, §17.120-132.