

## HOSPITALIZATION, MEDICAL TREATMENT AND RELATED BENEFITS

**HOSPITALIZATION.**--The Veterans Administration is authorized to furnish free hospitalization to veterans for service-connected disability regardless of ability to pay. Transportation to and from the hospital may be provided by the Veterans Administration if requested. If the veteran provides his own transportation, reduced fares may be granted. A veteran may obtain free hospitalization for a *non-service-connected* disability if hospital bed is available at a Veterans Administration hospital and if paying for the hospitalization would work a hardship on him. Transportation to and from the hospital may be provided if the veteran is unable to pay for it.

The veteran may apply for hospitalization in person or by mail. Application forms may be obtained from any Veterans Administration office, local Red Cross Chapter or from local veterans organization. Emergency hospitalization is granted under certain conditions. It is advisable, before proceeding to a Veterans Administration hospital, for the veteran to communicate with the nearest Veterans Administration facility by telephone or telegraph to request authority for admission and for transportation if necessary. It is advisable to have the veteran's physician make this contact if possible. Prior authority is necessary before a veteran can be reimbursed for expenses incurred in travel. If the Veterans Administration determines that immediate hospitalization is necessary, the veteran may go to a local hospital and be reimbursed by the Veterans Administration upon proper application.

**OUT-PATIENT TREATMENT.**--Veterans may secure out-patient treatment for service-connected disabilities at a Veterans Administration facility or from their own physicians if they obtain permission from the Veterans Administration. Veterans may also receive dental care for dental conditions that have resulted from their service and in certain other cases. A veteran who needs dental care should consult the nearest Veterans Administration Office. Treatment may be given at a Veterans Administration facility or regional office or may be authorized to be given by a dentist in the veteran's place of residence.

**PROSTHETIC APPLIANCES.**--(Artificial limbs, hearing aids, etc.) Prosthetic appliances will be furnished by the Veterans Administration when required by a veteran because of a service-connected disability or when incident to hospitalization at a Veterans Administration hospital. Necessary special clothing will also be furnished. Seeing-eye dogs will be provided for blind veterans with pensionable service-connected disabilities. Training in the use of the dogs will be provided as well as payment of expenses incident to such training.

**MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR VETERANS RECEIVING VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION.**--Veterans receiving vocational rehabilitation under Public Law 16 are entitled to such treatment as may be determined necessary by the Veterans Administration to prevent interruption of training, whether or not such treatment is for service-connected disabilities. This treatment, which may be either in a hospital or on an out-patient basis, includes necessary dental services and prosthetic appliances.

**HOW TO APPLY FOR THESE BENEFITS.**--Application for any of these benefits may be made to the nearest Veterans Administration office of facility or through a local Red Cross Chapter or veterans organization. Permission must be granted by the Veterans Administration for hospitalization, out-patient treatment, and dental care prior to receiving services, except in case of emergency when the Veterans Administration must be notified as soon as possible. A veteran will be taken to a Veterans Hospital if nearby and advance permission is obtained. If necessary treatment can be obtained in a local community and a Veterans Hospital is too far distant, or if an emergency exists, the Veterans Administration may grant permission to use local facilities.