

# VA Reproductive Care Access for Veterans

*Pregnant Veterans and VA beneficiaries\* deserve access to world-class, life-saving reproductive care when they need it most, including access to abortion counseling and services.*

## ABORTION SERVICES

**Veterans are eligible for abortion services when:**

- 1** The life or health of the pregnant Veteran would be endangered if the pregnancy were carried to term
- 2** The pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest
- 3** The above criteria are met for VA beneficiaries enrolled in CHAMPVA



**VA also offers patient-centered pregnancy counseling, including abortion information and counseling for Veterans enrolled in VA health care.**

## ABORTION QUALIFICATION FOR VETERANS

- You must be enrolled in VA health care to qualify for abortion services. If you are already enrolled in VA health care, you can reach out to your VA primary care provider (PCP) and community obstetrician and gynecologist (OB/GYN) to determine if an abortion is clinically appropriate and available to you.
- Your primary care provider can also refer you to all relevant VA reproductive health care offerings.

## ABORTION ELIGIBILITY FOR VETERANS



Your health care provider will determine whether the **“life or health of the pregnant Veteran would be endangered if the pregnancy were carried to term”**. This determination will be made on a **case-by-case basis** and will be the result of careful consultation between you and your VA health care providers.



In cases of **rape or incest, there will be no burden of proof on the pregnant Veteran**. Self-report from a Veteran or VA beneficiary constitutes sufficient evidence of an act of rape or incest, thereby making them eligible to receive medical care.

*\*VA defines beneficiaries as minors, Veterans and other adults including adult children incapable of self support prior to their eighteenth birthday, surviving spouses, dependent parents, and some insurance payees.*

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## RECEIVING AN ABORTION IN STATES WITH BANNED ABORTION POLICIES

VA can provide abortion services to **protect the life and health** of our Veterans and VA beneficiaries. VA employees, when working within the scope of their federal employment, **may provide abortion services regardless of state restrictions. VA will provide safe travel to women Veterans** where a state prohibits abortion, however community partners are not available to provide travel services.

### COMMUNITY ABORTION SERVICES

*If authorized under VA's Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP):*

- VA will pay for abortion counseling from providers in the community, where available.
- VA will pay for abortions from providers in the community in cases where the Veteran meets the abortion eligibility requirements (see page 1).

### VA REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

*VA Reproductive Health Services also include:*

- ✓ Fertility services
- ✓ Contraceptives
- ✓ Emergency contraceptives
- ✓ Menopause care
- ✓ Life-saving treatment related to pregnancy, such as medically necessary care for Veterans presenting with ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage
- ✓ In-vitro fertilization (IVF) for service-connected Veterans and their spouses who meet specific eligibility criteria

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



You can find more information about all of VA's reproductive health offerings at [VA.gov/ReproductiveHealth](https://www.va.gov/ReproductiveHealth) and can call or text the Women Veterans Call Center at **855-829-6636** available **Monday – Friday from 7:00am – 9:00pmCT and Saturday from 7:00am – 5:30pmCT**.



You can locate your nearest VA health facility at <https://www.va.gov/find-locations>.



You can contact the Veteran Benefits Administration at **1-800-827-1000** or [www.vba.va.gov](https://www.vba.va.gov) or contact the Veterans Affairs National Call Center for Health Care at **1-877-222-8387 (Option 1: Enrollment and Eligibility)**.



For more information on VA Abortion Services visit <https://womenshealth.va.gov/WOMENSHEALTH/topics/abortion-services.asp>.