

VA RURAL HEALTH CARE

24 March 2016

NC Governor's Working Group on Veterans,
Service Members, and their Families

VA's Focus on Rural Veterans

VA Office of Rural Health (ORH) was established by Congress in 2008 to support Veterans living in rural communities through:

- Collaborations with other VA program offices, Federal partners, state partners, and rural communities,
- Optimize the use of available and emerging technologies,
- Establish new access points to care,
- Education and advancement of current VA health care providers and;
- Recruitment and development of the next generation of VA providers to care for our rural Veterans
- Office of Rural Health is currently redefining its programs to focus on promising practices and access to care

VA CHOICE Program:

- Care in the community for Veterans living more than 40 miles from a VA medical care facility
- Have been or will be waiting more than 30 days for VA medical care

Caring for Rural Veterans

Office of Rural Health support to Veterans who live in rural communities by removing barriers to care.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyljKAa-kv0&feature=youtu.be>

North Carolina Veterans

Total North Carolina Veterans	724,295 *
Total North Carolina Veterans enrolled in VA Health System	298,944**
Rural enrollees	118,309
Highly Rural enrollees	1,853
9.2% Female	
Age 65+	51%
Age 50-64	26%
Age 25-49	23%

*US Census Bureau

** Veterans Health Administration Enrollment Files, FY16 Dec

VA Rural Sites of Care in North Carolina

- 4 VA Medical Centers 
 - Asheville
 - Durham
 - Fayetteville
 - Salisbury
- 13 Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs): 
 - Albemarle, Charlotte, Franklin, Goldsboro, Hamlet, Hickory, Jacksonville I & II, Morehead City, Raleigh, Robeson County, Rutherford County, Winston-Salem
- 1 Outreach Clinic – Brunswick 
- 2 Dialysis Centers – Raleigh and Fayetteville 
- 2 Annex's – Raleigh and Winston-Salem
- Four new Health Care Centers (HCCs) 
 - Fayetteville
 - Greenville
 - Kernersville
 - Wilmington

VISN 6 Sites of Care



- ★ VISN 6 Network Office
- VA Medical Center
- Health Center
- Telehealth Center
- Future Health Care Center
- Outpatient Clinic
- Outreach Clinic
- ▲ Project ARCH
- Dialysis Clinic

THE MAPSHOP

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VA's Focus on Rural Veterans - CHOICE

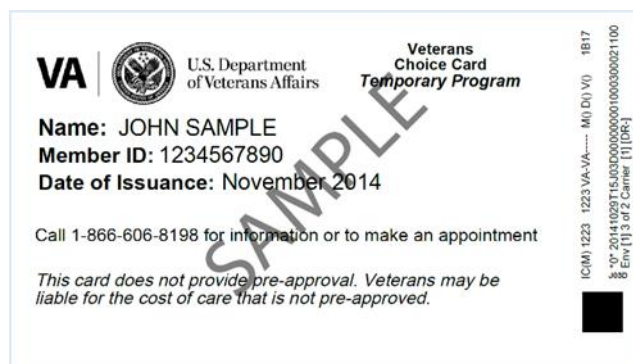
- The Department of Veterans Affairs strives to ensure quality, timely care for all Veterans.
- In an effort to increase Veterans' access to health care, VA implemented the Veterans choice Program (VCP) – a program that allows eligible Veterans to use approved health care providers outside of the VA Network.
- The Veterans Choice Program was implemented as part of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA).

Eligibility for the CHOICE Program:

- You must be enrolled in VA health care;
- Your current residence is more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest VA medical facility (including community based outpatient clinics) that has a full-time primary care physician; and
- Have been told by your local VA medical center that they will not be able to schedule an appointment for care either within 30 days from the date your provider determines that you need to be seen, or within 30 days from the date you wish to be seen if there is no specific date designated by your provider.

Veterans Choice Cards

- VA mailed all Veterans a Veterans Choice Card. The Choice Card allows Veterans to receive care outside of VA if they meet the program eligibility requirements.
- Veterans who wish to continue to receive all of their health care at the VA are certainly free to do so. Veterans are not required to participate in Choice.



Choice Updates and Resources

- Recent Changes: The 60 day limitation for completion of an episode of care has been extended to 1 year.
- VA has begun to use Veterans Choice Provider Agreements to expand its provider network to offer Veterans more health care options in their local communities. These Provider Agreements will assist VA in providing health care coverage when the service contractors (Health Net/TriWest) are unable to schedule veterans through existing contracts.
- The VA has created a Choice Act website that is the central resource for the latest updates about the program. There you will find fact sheets, frequently asked questions and be able to “live chat” with a VA representative about the Veterans Choice Program. The Choice Act website can be found by visiting www.va.gov/opa/choiceact .

Making an Appointment

- If you believe that you have met the qualifying criteria and you believe you are eligible to receive this VA benefit:
- Call the choice Program Center at 866-606-8198 to verify your eligibility.

