How can I transfer my prescriptions prescribed in the community to the VA System?

VA will fill prescriptions prescribed by a non-VA provider only if all the following criteria are met:

☐ You are enrolled in VA health benefits
☐ You have an assigned Primary Care Provider
☐ You have provided your VA health care provider with your medical records from your non-VA provider
☐ Your VA health care provider agrees with the medication prescribed by your non-VA provider. VA health care providers are under no obligation to prescribe a medication recommended by a non-VA provider.

Patients are encouraged to bring a current list of medications, dose, and frequency for every visit.

How do I pay for my prescriptions?

You may provide payment via the following methods:

Online: https://pay.gov
By mail: PO Box 530269 Atlanta, GA 30353-0263
In person: A VA Medical Center
By Phone: 1-888-827-4817

Pay by check, money order, or credit card payable to “VA.” Include Account Number. Please do not send in requests for prescription refills with your payment. If you do, your prescription refill will be delayed.

Will I be charged for over-the-counter medications?

Medication copayments are charged for all over-the-counter medications, such as aspirin, cough syrup, and vitamins that are dispensed from a VA pharmacy. You are not charged a medication copayment for medical supplies (syringes, alcohol wipes, etc.) or for medications administered during treatment.

How do I know if my medication is on the VA Formulary?

Please visit the Pharmacy Internet Formulary at http://www.pbm.va.gov/apps/VANationalFormulary/ to learn more.

How do I know what tier my medication is in?

Please visit the Health Benefits site at http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/ to learn more.

How do I change my medication(s) to a lower tier?

A VA health care provider must make this determination. They will review any prescriptions and determine if the type of medication being taken can change to a lower tiered medication.

How do I refill my prescription?

Prescriptions can be refilled online, by mail, or by phone. Please visit http://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/access/prescriptions.asp for more information. Note: Please do not send in requests for prescription refills with your payment. If you do, your prescription refill will be delayed.

Where does the Money Go?

Funds collected from medication copayments, other VA copayments, and health insurance reimbursements are used to provide additional health care services to Veterans.
Medication Copayments
Veterans in Priority Group 1 or other exempted Veterans do not pay for medications.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) charges a copayment for each 30-day or less supply of medication provided on an outpatient basis for the treatment of a non-service-connected condition. Effective early 2017, the copayment amounts are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Group</th>
<th>Outpatient Tier</th>
<th>Copayment amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1–30 day supply</td>
<td>31–60 day supply</td>
<td>61–90 day supply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 1 (Preferred Generics)</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 2 (Non-Preferred Generics and some OTCs)</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>$16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 3 (Brand Name)</td>
<td>$11</td>
<td>$22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why VA Requires a Medication Copayment
An annual cap was established to eliminate financial hardship for Veterans enrolled in Priority Groups 2 through 8, who might require an unusually large amount of medications. Beginning in early 2017, the annual cap that can be charged is $700. Veterans who exceed the annual cap will continue to receive medications without having to make further copayments.

Medication Copayments apply to you if:

1. You are a Veteran receiving outpatient treatment for a non-service-connected condition and your annual income exceeds the applicable National Income Threshold (found at www.va.gov/healthbenefits). This threshold changes on an annual basis. For the current threshold amount, contact the Enrollment Coordinator at your nearest VA health care facility.

2. You are a Veteran with a service-connected condition rated less than 50 percent disabled but are receiving outpatient treatment for a non-service-connected condition and your annual income exceeds the specified threshold.

Exemptions from Medication Copayments:

1. Veterans rated 50 percent or more disabled with a service-connected condition.
2. Medication dispensed for service-connected conditions.
3. Veterans who are former Prisoners of War (POWs).
5. Medication for treatment of military sexual trauma, as authorized under 38 U.S.C. 1720D.
6. Medication for treatment of cancer of the head or neck, as authorized under 38 U.S.C. 1720E.
7. Medication provided as part of a VA-approved research project, as authorized by 38 U.S.C. 7303.
8. Veterans with a low income (annual income lower than the applicable VA pension).
9. Veterans who VA determines to be catastrophically disabled, as defined in 38 CFR 17.36(e).
10. Veterans receiving care for psychosis or a mental illness other than psychosis pursuant to 38 CFR 17.110.

Applying for Low Income Exemption
Veterans who have a service-connected rating of 40 percent or less and whose income is at or below the applicable National Income Threshold (found at www.va.gov/healthbenefits) may complete a medication copayment exemption test.

Payment Options
Payment is encouraged, but not required, when you pick up your medications at your VA health care facility. If you are unable to pay at that time an account will be established for you to be billed monthly. Prescriptions dispensed after hours, on weekends and on holidays, in emergency situations or through the Consolidated Mail Out Pharmacy (CMOP), will be billed to your account. Please do not send in requests for prescription refills with your payment. If you do, your prescription refill will be delayed.

To avoid interest and administrative charges, make payments before your next monthly billing statement. We encourage you to pay by check, money order or credit card. You should not send cash through the mail. The national payment address is printed on the monthly billing statement. If you would like to pay your VA patient copayment balance online, you may log into www.pay.gov and find “Department of Veterans Affairs” on the agency list. This service is available to you at no cost.

Billing Questions:

1. Can I get prescriptions from my private health care provider filled at the VA pharmacy?
2. Will my insurance company be charged for medication for my service-connected condition?
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