A Summary of Dental Benefits for Veterans
Objectives

• Who is Eligible & What they are Eligible for?
• Classes of Treatment
• Inpatient Treatment
• Emergency Outpatient Treatment
• One Time Treatment for Certain Veterans
• Dental Conditions secondary to other S/C Conditions
Scenario 1

A veteran is currently receiving temporary I/U with a future evaluation of August 28, 2011, because she is enrolled in the VA Inpatient PTSD program for 91 days. She is experiencing pain from a left lower wisdom tooth that was never removed and also has a cavity in the lower left canine tooth that is causing no pain. She is Service Connected for trauma to the upper right molar.

Is this veteran entitled to any dental care and if so, what is she entitled too?
Scenario 2

This same veteran has completed her PTSD Treatment program and has been released from the hospital. She is having complications from the wisdom tooth removal and surgery, and the cavity in her lower left canine has started to cause her much pain and discomfort.

Is she entitled to any dental care and if so, what is she entitled too?
Scenario 3

A veteran that is rated Permanently Disabling is in need of Dental Care.

Is this veteran entitled to any dental care and if so, what are they entitled too, and where do they submit their request for treatment?
Scenario 4

A veteran has recently left the service within the past 93 days. He informs you that he had trauma to his upper right Incisors in Iraq. He was provided a dental exam prior to being honorably discharged, but did not receive any treatment according to his DD Form 214.

Is this veteran entitled to any dental care & what guidance as a Service Officer can we provide to this veteran?
Eligibility & Classes

The Eligibility for Outpatient Dental Care is not the same as most other VA Benefits and is Categorized into Classes.

These Classes are (I, II, IIA, IIB, IIC, III, IV, V, and VI)

If a Veteran is Eligible for VA Dental Care under Classes I, IIC, or IV, they are eligible for any necessary Dental Care to maintain or restore Oral Health and Masticatory Function including Repeat Care.

Other Classes have Time and/or Service Limits.
Who is Eligible?

• Public Law 83 enacted June 16, 1955, amended Veterans Eligibility for Outpatient Dental Care.

• As a result, any veteran who received a Dental Award Letter from the VBA dated before 1955 in which the VBA determined the Dental Condition to be Non-Compensable are No Longer eligible for Class II Outpatient Dental Treatment.
Eligibility & Classes

- Veterans that Have a Service Connected **Compensable** Dental Disability or Condition are assigned to **Class I** and are Eligible for Any Needed Dental Care.

- Veterans that are a Former Prisoner of War are assigned to **Class IIC** and are Eligible for Any Needed Dental Care.
Eligibility & Classes

✓ Veterans who Apply for Dental Care within 180 days of Discharge or release from a Period of Active Duty of 90 Days or more during the Persian Gulf War Era (Under conditions under than Dishonorable) are assigned to Class II.

✓ These Veterans are Entitled to One Time Dental care if their DD Form 214 does not indicate that a Complete Dental Examination and all Appropriate Dental Treatment has been rendered prior to discharge.
Veterans who have a Service Connected Non-Compensable Dental Condition or Disability Resulting from Combat Wounds or Service Trauma are assigned to Class IIA.

These Veterans are Entitled to Needed Care for the Service Connected Condition (s).

A Dental Trauma Rating (VA Form 10-564-D) or VARO Rating Decision Letter (VA Form 10-7131) Identifies the Tooth/Teeth that are Eligible for Care.
Eligibility & Classes

A Enrolled Veteran that may be Homeless and Receiving Care under VHA Directive 2007-039 is assigned to Class IIB. These Veterans are eligible for:

A One Time course of Dental Care Medically necessary to relieve pain, assist the Veteran to gain employment, or treat Moderate, Severe, or Complicated and Severe Gingival and Periodontal Conditions.

VHA Directive 2007-039 is Included in your Handouts.
Eligibility & Classes

🐾 Veterans with a Dental Condition Clinically determined by VA to be associated with and aggravating a Service Connected Medical Condition is assigned to Class III.

🐾 These Veterans are Entitled to Dental Care to treat the Oral Conditions that are determined by a VA Dental Professional to have a Direct & Material Detrimental Effect to the Service Connected Medical Condition.
Eligibility & Classes

- Veterans that have S/C Disabilities rated at 100% Disabling or is in receipt of Individual Unemployability are assigned to Class IV and are Eligible for Any Needed Dental Care.

**Note:**

- Veterans that are in Receipt of a Temporary 100% Rate are not Eligible for Comprehensive Outpatient Dental Services.
Eligibility & Classes

A Veteran that is Actively Engaged in a Title 38 USC Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation Program is assigned to Class V. These Veterans are eligible for Dental Care to the extent necessary as determined VA Dental Professional to:

- Make Possible your entrance into a Rehabilitation Program.
- Achieve the goals of their Rehabilitation Program.
- Prevent Interruption of their Rehabilitation Program.
- Hasten the Return to a Rehabilitation Program if the Veteran is in Interrupted or Leave Status.
Eligibility & Classes

Class V Continued

❖ Hasten the return to a Rehabilitation Program of a Veteran placed in Discontinued Status because of Illness, Injury or a Dental Condition, or

❖ Secure and Adjust to Employment during the period of Employment Assistance, or enable the Veteran to achieve Maximum Independence in Daily Living.
Eligibility & Classes

A Veteran Receiving VA Care or is Scheduled for Inpatient Care and requires Dental Care for a condition complicating a Medical Condition currently under treatment is assigned to Class VI. These Veterans are eligible for:

Dental Care to treat the Oral Condition that are determined by a VA Dental Professional to Complicate the Medical Condition currently under treatment.
Emergency Outpatient

• **38 CFR 17.165**  Emergency outpatient dental treatment.

When outpatient emergency dental care is provided as a humanitarian service, to individuals who have no established eligibility for outpatient dental care, the treatment will be restricted to the alleviation of pain or extreme discomfort, or the remediation of a dental condition which is determined to be endangering life or health. The provision of emergency treatment to persons found ineligible for dental care will not entitle the applicant to further dental treatment. Individuals provided emergency dental care who are found to be ineligible for such care will be billed.
Inpatient Dental Care

• **38 CFR 17.166**

Dental services for hospital or nursing home patients and domiciled members.

Persons receiving hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care pursuant to the provisions of 38 CFR 17.46 and 38 CFR 17.47, will be furnished such dental services as are professionally determined necessary to the patients' or members' overall hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care.
Post Hospital Treatment

- 38 CFR 17.163

Post-Hospital outpatient dental treatment.

The Chief, Dental Service may authorize outpatient dental care which is reasonably necessary to complete treatment of a non-service connected dental condition which was begun while the veteran was receiving Department of Veterans Affairs authorized Hospital Care.
Scenario 1

A veteran is currently receiving temporary I/U with a future evaluation of August 28, 2011, because she is enrolled in the VA Inpatient PTSD program for 91 days. She is experiencing pain from a left lower wisdom tooth that was never removed and also has a cavity in the lower left canine tooth that is causing no pain. She is Service Connected for trauma to the upper right molar.

Is this veteran entitled to any dental care and if so, what is she entitled to?
Scenario 1 Answer

She is entitled to treatment in **CL VI** if a VA Dental Professional determines that the Wisdom Tooth is complicating her PTSD or treatment for PTSD.

She also meets the requirements of 38 CFR 17.166 that covers dental services for hospital or nursing home patients and domiciled members.

She is not entitled to dental treatment based on her Temporary Individual Unemployability.

Her S/C dental trauma only covers her upper right molar.
Scenario 2

This same veteran has completed her PTSD Treatment program and has been released from the hospital. She is having complications from the wisdom tooth removal and surgery, and the cavity in her lower left canine has started to cause her much pain and discomfort.

Is this veteran entitled to any dental care and if so, what is she entitled too?
Scenario 2 Answer

She may be entitled to treatment under 38 CFR 17.163 which allows treatment that is reasonably necessary to complete the treatment for NSC dentals conditions which began while the veteran was receiving DVA Authorized Hospital Care. I would argue that she is in this case.

She is not SC for her Lower Left Canine and is not entitled to Comprehensive Dental Treatment.

She could be entitled to emergency outpatient dental treatment under 38 CFR 17.165 but she may be billed for the treatment if she is found to be ineligible.
Scenario 3

A veteran that is rated Permanently Disabling is in need of Dental Care.

Is this veteran entitled to any dental care and if so, what are they entitled too, and where do they submit their request for treatment?
Scenario 3 Answer

Veterans that have S/C Disabilities rated at 100% Disabling or is in receipt of Individual Unemployability are assigned to Class IV and are Eligible for Any Needed Dental Care.

The request for Dental Service is submitted to the VA Health Care Facility, not the VARO in the form of a S/C Claim.
Scenario 4

A veteran has recently left the service within the past 93 days. He informs you that he had trauma to his upper right Incisors in Iraq. He was provided a dental exam prior to being honorably discharged, but did not receive any treatment according to his DD Form 214.

Is this veteran entitled to any dental care & what guidance as a Service Officer can we provide to this veteran?
Scenario 4 Answer

Veterans who Apply for Dental Care within 180 days of Discharge or release from a Period of Active Duty of 90 Days or more during the Persian Gulf War Era (Under conditions under than Dishonorable) are assigned to Class II. They are Entitled to One Time Dental care if their DD Form 214 does not indicate that a Complete Dental Examination and all Appropriate Dental Treatment has been rendered prior to discharge.

He may possibly meet the requirements of Class IIA.

We should try and develop for possible S/C dental trauma for his upper right Incisors while the veteran was in Iraq.
38 CFR References

• 17.160 Authorization of dental examinations.
• 17.162 Eligibility for Class II dental treatment without rating action.
• 17.163 Post Hospital outpatient dental treatment.
• 17.164 Patient responsibility in making and keeping dental appointments.
• 17.165 Emergency outpatient dental treatment.
• 17.166 Dental services for hospital or nursing home patients and domiciled members.
38 USC References

- 1710 Eligibility for hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary care.
- 1710A Required nursing home care.
- 1710B Extended care services.
- 1711 Care during examinations and in emergencies.
- 1712 Dental care; drugs and medicines for certain disabled veterans; vaccines.
M21 References

• M21-1, Manual Rewrite, Part III, Subpart V, Chapter 7, Section A

• M21-1, Manual Rewrite, Part IX, Subpart II, Chapter 2, Section 2

VHA References

• VHA Directive 2007-039

• VHA Handbook 1130.01
Summary & Questions

Thank You, Have a Great Week

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