

How Does Veterans Healthcare Work?

Veterans healthcare works in a variety of ways. They are allowed to obtain private insurance if they wish, but there is also a federal program in place to assist. The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is a department within the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Through 1,255 healthcare facilities, the VHA serves nearly 9 million veterans. Most veterans are eligible to receive benefits from the VHA, but not all of them are. If you would like to learn more about eligibility requirements, please click [here](#).

Benefits

The VHA offers several healthcare benefits. Some of these benefits include mental health resources, care for issues regarding military sexual trauma, military induced injuries, prescription trackers, and easy to use resources to contact medical personnel. The VHA also provides assistance in other fields such as disability, housing, and pensions. The VHA system has tailored their healthcare plans to match common needs of veterans, which is why many veterans opt to use the system.

Why Is This Important?

Our veterans have risked their lives for the safety of our nation. It is essential that we make sure they have the best quality of life once they depart from their service. Additionally, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) reported that 6% of veterans are uninsured. Also, the prevalence of illnesses and disabilities is very high. The CBPP found that 42% of veterans with Medicaid had 2 or more chronic conditions, and 54% had a disability. These statistics show us that veterans healthcare is an essential facet of the healthcare debate.

COVID-19's Impact

Due to the fact that several veterans have preexisting conditions, they have an increased risk of contracting COVID-19. Additionally, in the first part of 2020, veteran unemployment reached 12% (nearly 1 million people). This also translates to several thousands of people losing their private healthcare/insurance plans provided by their employers. The VHA created 3 centers where medical professionals could consult patients virtually for COVID-19 concerns and general health inquiries. They also equipped several of their existing healthcare facilities with extra ICU rooms and medical equipment. If you would like to learn more about how the VHA has prepared for the COVID-19 pandemic, please click [here](#).