

VVA CHAPTER 1069 VETERANS BENEFITS HANDOUT 6/12/2019

Mike Harbaugh – Chapter member and Certified WCVSO

Mike will present information on the following 3 items:

- **VA MISSION Act: VA's new urgent care benefit for Veterans**

Sometimes a quick trip to a local walk-in retail health clinic or urgent care facility is a convenient alternative for minor injuries and illnesses. As part of implementing the VA MISSION Act of 2018, VA will offer an urgent care benefit that provides eligible Veterans with greater choice and access to timely, high-quality care. With urgent care, Veterans have a new option for care for the treatment of minor injuries and illnesses, such as colds, sore throats, and minor skin infections. The benefit is offered in addition to the opportunity to receive care from a VA provider, as VA also offers same-day services. Eligible Veterans will be able to receive urgent care from an urgent care provider that is part of VA's contracted network of community providers without prior authorization from VA. VA can pay for an urgent care claim only if:

- The Veteran is eligible for the benefit;
- The urgent care provider is part of VA's contracted network of community providers; and
- The services are not excluded under the benefit (excluded services include preventive services and dental services).

This benefit will be available when final Federal regulations are published and effective, on June 6, 2019. Use the link below to read the entire article on the VA website.

<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/60896/va-mission-act-vas-new-urgent-care-benefit-for-veterans/>

- **VA MISSION Act: What to expect for community care on June 6**

As the one-year anniversary of President Trump's signing of the VA MISSION Act of 2018 (the MISSION Act) approaches on June 6, Veterans can expect to have more choices than ever in getting timely, high-quality care. VA is required to implement major parts of the new Veterans Community Care Program under the MISSION Act by June 6, 2019. This new Program will become effective after VA publishes implementing regulations. Veterans should expect a fairly transparent and seamless transition to the new Veterans Community Care Program. After June 6, VA cannot furnish care under the Veterans Choice Program (VCP). The two other most important changes that become effective on June 6 include:

- New eligibility criteria, which will go into effect for Veteran community care.
- A new urgent care benefit, which will become available.

Veterans should continue to talk with their VA care team about the best way to get the care they need—either from a VA medical facility or community provider. As they do now, Veterans may also need to pay a copayment for care for non-service-connected conditions, just as they would if they received care at a VA medical facility. Special copayment rules apply to the new urgent care benefit. Use the link below to read the entire article on the VA website.

<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/60982/va-mission-act-expect-community-care-june-6/>

- **MIKE HARBAUGH: Is now an Accredited VA Representative (Service Officer)**

After a year of both TVC (Texas Veterans Commission) training and VA training, extensive background checks, and ending with a final test, Chapter member Mike Harbaugh, has received a VA sponsorship and has earned the title of an Accredited "VA Affiliate & Representative" (i.e. VA Accredited Service Officer). What is an Accredited VA affiliate/Representative? Use the following link to find out. <https://www.benefits.va.gov/vso/>