

Media Report 26 July 2019, 1 of 1

This weeks media reports will cover and answer questions veterans are still asking on Treatment Benefits, and local Media Articles.

The info in this report will give the Families and our Senior Veterans the information required to keep living a dignified retirement either in their home or at a Health Care Facility

Treatment Benefits – Programs of Choice (POC)

For a complete listing of what POC benefits and services may be covered and their respective requirements such as pre-authorizations, prescriptions, frequency and/or dollar limits, please visit the [Benefit Grid](#).

POC 1 – AIDS FOR DAILY LIVING

Provides coverage for assistive devices and accessories that help people do everyday tasks and live independently. Repairs and maintenance are also covered.

Examples of devices or accessories covered include:

- Wheelchairs or walking aids (such as canes, walkers, ice grippers/rubber tips);
- bathroom aids (such as grab bars, raised toilet seats, bath boards, bathtub rails);
- self-help aids that assist with getting dressed, preparing food and living safely in your home.

POC 2 – AMBULANCE/MEDICAL TRAVEL SERVICES

Provides coverage for the use of ambulance services required for an emergency situation or a specified medical condition.

For non emergency use a prescription/pre-authorization are required before the service is provided.

For emergency situations an authorization is required before VAC covers the cost however not before the service is provided.

The program also includes coverage for [travel expenses incurred to receive healthcare services or benefits](#).

POC 3 – AUDIO (HEARING) SERVICES

Provides coverage for equipment and accessories related to hearing impairment

Examples of benefits that are covered include:

- hearing aids
- telephone amplifiers, infrared devices
- hearing accessories
- dispensing and fitting fees for hearing aids

If the benefits covered by VAC do not meet your particular needs, your hearing health professional may submit a request to VAC to provide coverage for a different type of auditory aid. The hearing health professional must provide, in writing, the following information:

- the standard hearing benefit(s) already tried;
- the difficulty or lack of satisfaction experienced with the standard hearing benefit(s);
- the proposed replacement hearing aid; and,
- the rationale for the selection of the replacement hearing aid.

POC 4 – DENTAL SERVICES

Provides coverage for basic dental care and some pre-authorized comprehensive dental services. Services provided should be both generally accepted practices and the most cost-effective treatment essential to your good oral health.

VAC dental program covers up to 100% of the rates in the Provincial Dental / Denturist Association fee guide.

Examples of services that are covered:

- Annual basic treatments up to \$1500 annually
 - Exams, polish and fluoride treatments every 9 months
 - Scaling (8 units per year)
 - Fillings and extractions
- Standard dentures once every 7 years

Examples of dental services that require pre-authorization from VAC: (Before any treatment is received a dental treatment plan is to be submitted to VAC for preauthorization.)

- Basic treatment exceeding \$1500 annually
- Crowns
- Bridgework (x-rays required)
- Specialist treatment (referral required)
- Early replacement of dentures as determined by your dentist or denturist

Examples of services that are not covered

- Gum surgery
- Implants

- Equilibrated/custom/semi-precision dentures

POC 5 – HOSPITAL SERVICES

Provides coverage for treatment services in an acute care, chronic care or rehabilitative care hospital and multi-disciplinary clinics registered with VAC. As these services are generally a provincial responsibility, costs for these services are normally covered by VAC only if they relate to a condition for which a client holds disability entitlement. Costs for private or semi-private rooms are not normally covered by VAC.

Examples of services that are covered:

- in-patient and out-patient services in an accredited provincial hospital or health facility.
- Blood collection services

POC 6 – MEDICAL SERVICES

Coverage for services of a licensed physician (including medical examinations or treatments or for reports requested by VAC). Typically, these services are for a condition related to your [VAC disability benefit](#) or your application for a disability benefit.

POC 7 – MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Provides coverage for medical and surgical equipment and supplies normally used by an individual in a non-hospital setting.

Medical supplies are those items that are essential to effectively monitor or treat an illness or injury, are primarily used to serve a medical purpose and generally, not useful to a person in the absence of an illness or injury.

Examples of benefits that are covered:

- Bandages / Dressings
- Bladder / Bowel Supplies
- Diabetic Supplies

POC 8 – NURSING SERVICES

Nursing Services have three distinct components: assessments, foot care and visits.

Examples of services that are covered:

- Medication administration and management
- Basic wound care
- Health teaching

- Basic and advanced foot care

Examples of services that are not covered:

- Acute care / specialized interventions
- Private nursing provided in a long-term care facility (nursing home) or a clinic / hospital facility
- Personal care

POC 9 – OXYGEN THERAPY

Provides coverage for oxygen and accessories as well as respiratory equipment and supplies.

Examples of benefits that are covered:

- Oxygen concentrators
- Oxygen compressors
- Oxygen gas
- CPAP and BiPAP machines

POC 10 – PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Provides coverage for drug products and other pharmaceutical benefits to those who have demonstrated a medical need and have a prescription from a health professional authorized to write a prescription in that province. Your pharmacist can verify your eligibility for a benefit at the time that you present the prescription. Standard benefits and special authorization benefits are included in this program.

Standard benefits include many over-the-counter and prescription drugs that are considered by VAC to represent “common” therapies. These products are readily accessible for those who are eligible, have a prescription and present their VAC Health Care Identification card.

Special Authorization benefits include less common or higher cost therapies approved by VAC. A prescription is required and must be able to demonstrate a medical need that is most appropriately met with the requested therapy. You may be required to submit medical information prior to being approved for these benefits.

For a complete listing of what may be covered and respective requirements, please visit the [VAC Drug Formulary search form](#).

POC 11 – PROSTHESES AND ORTHOSES

Provides coverage for prostheses, orthoses, and other related accessories. Necessary repairs and maintenance are also covered.

Examples of benefits covered:

- Arch supports
- Artificial limbs
- Leg/arm braces
- Modifications to ordinary footwear

POC 12 – RELATED HEALTH SERVICES

Provides coverage for the services provided by approved health professionals by VAC. In many cases, the service must be prescribed by a physician in order to be approved by VAC.

Examples of services covered include:

- occupational therapy,
- physiotherapy,
- massage therapy,
- chiropractic,
- acupuncture,
- speech language pathology and
- psychological counselling.

POC 13 – SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

Provides coverage for special equipment required for the care and treatment for eligible Veterans. These benefits must be prescribed by a VAC approved health professional and in many cases supported by the recommendation of another health professional. In addition, VAC may provide coverage for home adaptations or modifications (ie. wheelchair ramps, door widening) to accommodate the use of the special equipment in the home.

Examples of special equipment benefits covered:

- Wheelchairs
- Walkers
- Power mobility devices
- Transfer / Lift devices
- Hospital equipment
- Ergonomic equipment

POC 14 – VISION (EYE) CARE

Provides coverage for eye examinations, lenses, frames and accessories to correct sight impairments as well as low-vision aids.

Examples of benefits covered:

- Glasses
- Retinal imaging
- Regular eye exams
- Fees for low vision evaluation
- Magnifiers
- White Canes

Last New Brunswick veteran of Devil's Brigade dies at the age of 98

<http://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/last-new-brunswick-veteran-of-devils-brigade-dies-at-the-age-of-98/ar-AAEq4pz>

Old Brewery Mission gets \$900K from federal government to provide housing for homeless veterans

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/old-brewery-mission-montreal-homeless-veterans-federal-funding-1.5220902>

An explosive problem: How the navy cleans up WWII underwater leftovers

CBC News

Lt. Zach Johnson tumbles backwards off a grey inflatable boat, splashing into the blue water of Conception Bay South. He's headed to the bottom of the ocean to clean up a problem that's been there for 76 years. The calm water, filled with sailboats and Zodiacs, was a very different scene in 1942. German U-boats lurked under the surface, targeting ships moving iron ore from the mines on Bell Island. Four ships were sunk, taking with them more than 60 sailors and about 50 rounds of explosives. [READ MORE](#)

Perley Rideau celebrates century club for 21 residents

Ottawa Citizen

Like seven other new members of Perley Rideau's century club, LCol R.A. Wild, MC (Ret'd) RCE was born into the tumultuous aftermath of the First World War, in 1919. One of nine children, he came of age during the Depression, helped some Halifax bootleggers unload rum, joined the militia then the Royal Canadian Engineers when the Second World War broke out. He earned a Military Cross for his gallantry during the Italian campaign by overseeing the construction of a bridge in the dark under enemy fire. [READ MORE](#)

Trois millions \$ supplémentaires dans le Fonds pour le bien-être des vétérans et de leur famille

45e Nord

Des idées audacieuses et novatrices appuyées par une recherche solide sont essentielles à l'amélioration continue du bien-être des vétérans et de leur famille. Le gouvernement du Canada a

mis sur pied le Fonds pour le bien-être des vétérans et de leur famille pour appuyer la création d'initiatives, de recherches et de projets novateurs pour améliorer le bien-être des vétérans et de leur famille. [LIRE PLUS](#)

Readiness and relationships

Arctic Warrior

The Arctic Engineers of the 673rd Civil Engineer Group, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, travelled to Gwangju Air Base, Korea in April to conduct a week-long base resiliency training event with local Republic of Korea (ROK) Air Force engineers. The purpose of the event was to train and execute integrated base contingency operations focused on recovering the airfield after an attack. [READ MORE](#)

Former combat engineer officer leaves top cop job in Penticton

Global News

Change is on the horizon for policing in Penticton. Supt. Ted De Jager has announced he will be leaving for a job at "E" Division headquarters in Surrey in the fall. "In the coming months [I] will be preparing for handover to my successor," De Jager said in a release to the media. The head of Penticton's police office will take on the job as officer in charge of service delivery for B.C. within the Operations Strategy Branch, he said. Previously to joining the RCMP in 1997, De Jager was a combat engineer officer with the Canadian military. [READ MORE](#)

Pentagon scientists are making talking plasma laser balls for use as non-lethal weapons

Military Times

Instead of beaming a flashing light or shouting over a loudspeaker to keep people away from sensitive areas, new technology being developed could allow troops to fire a laser that can form a "plasma ball" that talks to the potential intruders. The Laser Induced Plasma Effect program is part of the Joint Non-lethal Weapons Directorate program to find ways to deter, stun, basically stop adversaries short of killing them. [READ MORE](#)

Inside Kabul's school for explosive detection dogs

France24

At a facility in Kabul, Afghanistan canine conscripts are training for a life or death mission: learning how to sniff out explosives in a country where blasts from mines and homemade bombs kill and wound hundreds a year. Around 200 dogs train at a time at the Mine Detection Centre (MDC) in the Afghan capital, starting when they are just pups. They are put through their paces around obstacle courses and are taught to correctly identify target smells from a conveyor belt of identical canisters during an intense two-year course. [READ MORE](#)

Vaincre le trouble de stress post-traumatique une montagne à la fois

Radio-Canada

Monts Aconcagua, Kilimandjaro, Elbrouz et camp de base de l'Everest : le Gaspésien Yves Huard gravit les plus hautes montagnes du monde pour déjouer le trouble de stress post-traumatique. Le retraité des Forces armées canadiennes souhaite maintenant initier d'autres personnes atteintes de maladies mentales à l'activité physique, « la meilleure pilule » selon lui. À 17 ans, Yves Huard a quitté son Saint-Godefroi natal pour s'enrôler dans les Forces armées canadiennes. Dès 1987, il grossit les rangs du Royal 22e Régiment, un bataillon d'infanterie. [LIRE PLUS](#)

France to seek new engineer vehicle

Jane's 360

The French Direction Generale de l'Armement (DGA) is expected to issue a request for proposals later this year for a new engineer combat support vehicle (ECSV) to replace its tracked Engin Blinde du Genie (EBG) combat engineer tractor, according to a DGA briefing viewed by Jane's. The French Army received 71 EBGs, with production undertaken at the now-Nexter facility at Roanne, with 54 subsequently upgraded to extend their operational lives and final deliveries in early 2014 under the designation EBG Valorise (EBG Val). [READ MORE](#)

Russia testing new combat engineering robot based on Syrian experience

TASS

A lightweight mine-clearing robot prototype is undergoing trials in Russia's engineering troops, the Defense Ministry said recently. The robot Scorpion is a follow-up of the Skarabei-class lightweight robotic system that was tested in a combat environment in Syria where Russian army engineers carried out mine-clearing operations in towns and districts liberated from terrorists. [READ MORE](#)

Hidden details emerge of secret underground bunker to protect Government from Cold War attack

The Scotsman

Details of how a secret underground complex was created in case Westminster came under attack from the Soviet Union in the 1960s have come to light. The bunker, code named Turnstile, included a telecoms unit, storage depots and a communications centre, with access to a range of military personnel at the height of the nuclear arms race. [READ MORE](#)

- [New armoury at the Saint-Hubert Garrison](#)
- [Big move underway for Logistics Support Team in Kingston](#)
- [New munitions storage facility improves Aldershot training experience](#)