



VETERANS CHOICE PROGRAM - PROVIDER AGREEMENTS FACT SHEET

Veterans Choice Program (VCP) Provider Agreements are one tool to help fill important gaps in access to medical care.

- VCP Provider Agreements are one tool VA was authorized to use as part of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA), so all rules and regulations governing VCP are also applicable to the VCP Provider Agreements.
- VA will use VCP Provider Agreements to partner directly with local community care providers in two circumstances:
 1. To deliver specific services when the VCP contractors are unable to schedule an appointment within the contract requirements or
 2. To deliver specific services that are not offered by the VCP contractors.
- VA and Congress continue to work together to consolidate and improve the way VA delivers community care. During this time of transition, VCP Provider Agreements help bridge the gap to meet the health care needs of our Veterans.

Background of VCP Provider Agreements

- On August 7, 2014, President Obama signed VACAA into law.
- In order to improve VA's ability to deliver high-quality health care to Veterans, VCP (section 101 of VACAA) required VA to expand the availability of hospital care and medical services for eligible Veterans through agreements with eligible community providers.
- One of the authorities given to VA was the ability to utilize VCP Provider Agreements as a tool to ensure Veterans have access to timely community care.
- Prior to VACAA being passed, VA had mechanisms in place to purchase care in the community. Those mechanisms are still available to VA.

VCP Provider Agreement requirements are straightforward.

- VCP Provider Agreements are formal agreements between a provider or organization and VA.
- VCP Provider Agreements set legal expectations and guidelines for the delivery of a specific set of health care services for a defined period.
- All requirements outlined in the VCP are applicable to the VCP Provider Agreements. These include, but are not limited to, provider qualifications and reimbursement rates.
- Additional information on VCP can be found at: <http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/>

VCP Provider Agreements are NOT:

- Replacements for our contract partners
 - VA will continue to utilize our contract partners and work with them to improve the Choice Program.
- Intended to be used for VA to build a stand-alone network.
- Taking the place of other VA Community Care programs and purchased care authorities.



Frequently asked questions:

Question: How will VA pay providers under the Provider Agreement?

Answer: VA Community Care providers must submit all invoices to VA electronically, when possible. VA will issue payments electronically. Please review the Provider Agreement for additional information regarding payment.

Question: When will VA use Provider Agreements?

Answer: VA will use VCP Provider Agreements to partner directly with local community care providers in two circumstances:

1. To deliver specific services when the VCP contractors are unable to schedule an appointment within the contract requirements or
2. To deliver specific services that are not offered by the VCP contractors.

Question: Do Provider Agreements expire when the Choice Legislation expires?

Answer: VCP Provider Agreements will expire when the Choice Program legislation expires, or, if Congress reauthorizes the Choice Program and Provider Agreement authority, five years from the date the Agreement was signed, whichever comes first.

Question: Are VCP Provider Agreements taking the place of any other Community Care Program in VA?

Answer: No, VCP Provider Agreements are a tool, authorized by Congress, that allows VA to enter into agreements with community providers to increase Veterans access to community care in the specific circumstances described above.

Question: Are all Veterans eligible to receive community care using VCP Provider Agreements?

Answer: Only Veterans eligible for VCP will be eligible to receive care as VCP Provider Agreements are a tool used to deliver care under the Program.

Question: Is the reimbursement rate the same for VCP Provider Agreements as it is for Choice Providers?

Answer: Yes, reimbursement rates are the same as the rates under VCP. VCP Provider Agreements are subject to all the same rules and regulations as the VCP.

Question: I know providers that are interested in entering into a VCP Provider Agreement with VA. Who should they contact to begin the process?

Answer: Providers interested in joining the Veterans Choice Program network, or exploring a Provider Agreement, should contact their local VA facility.

