

What are Maternity Care Benefits?

These benefits are for women Veterans who are enrolled in VA Health Care system. It begins with confirmation of pregnancy and continues through the first post-partum visit, 6 weeks after delivery. Care of the newborn is covered for the first 7 days of life.

Some of these benefits include:

- Clinical assessment and diagnostic testing that are part of routine prenatal care
- Pregnancy-related education such as childbirth preparation classes, breastfeeding support, lactation classes, parenting classes and nutritional counseling
- Supplies such as nursing bras and pads, breast pumps, nipple cream, and maternity belts
- Laboratory panel and special testing
- Maternal and fetal screening for genetic disorders and genetic counseling for positive family history or positive screening
- Ultrasounds, hospital delivery, emergency care such as a room or delivery unit
- Pharmacy dispensing of prescriptions, non-prescription medications and dietary supplements or vitamins

What if I attend the VA for other reasons beside pregnancy?

Patients already under care of a VA provider (such as Psychologist, Psychiatrist or other health professionals) may continue to be treated for their medical problems. Patients should tell

their provider when they are pregnant or considering becoming pregnant. This is to ensure that medication and other procedures can be adjusted for the safety of the baby.

Thank You

VA wants to work with you and your doctors to manage your health care. The Maternity Care Coordinator and Fee Basis Office staff can assist you in this process. Please contact them for further information or assistance.

For more information call:

Cecilia Pruszynski RN
Maternity Care Coordinator
412-360-3753

Val Posa, RN
Women Veterans Program Manager
412-360-6289



Healthy Women's Center

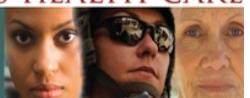
Maternity Care Benefits for Women Veterans



Primary Care
646 / 142B / 215
Sept 2015

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

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★ the best care anywhere.



Maternity Care Benefits for Women Veterans

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★ the best care anywhere.



How do I use VA maternity benefits?

Please tell your provider the name and location of your choice of doctor. You may attend any practice that accepts the Medicare rate of reimbursement. *Make sure to check with the practice's billing manager to ensure they will accept the reimbursement.* Once chosen, a FEE BASIS CONSULT (7079) will be entered by the Maternity Care Coordinator. This is authorization that your outside medical practice will need so the VA can pay for their services.

Do not make your first appointment with a doctor until after the 7079 is completed, or you may be responsible for the entire visit out of pocket.

The Maternity Care Coordinator will contact you to provide information regarding services available within the VA and the community as well as information about pregnancy and childbirth. You will be contacted every other month to ensure that any issues

Please notify the VA if you change your address or phone number.

Prescription Information

Medications such as prenatal vitamins are often prescribed by your VA primary care doctor. Your OB doctor should prescribe all other medications related to the pregnancy. In rare instances these prescriptions may need to be Fee Based if not available through the VA. Please have all new prescriptions sent to your Primary Care Provider or Maternity Care Coordinator to avoid any delays in filling prescriptions.



Specialty care while pregnant

If medical concerns arise during pregnancy and your OB doctor thinks you need to see a specialist they can refer you to a non-VA specialist doctor. *The OB's office must telephone the Maternity Care Coordinator and the VA Fee Basis office to receive **pre-approval** for specialty consultation.*

Emergencies

The VA Medical Center is not staffed or equipped to address obstetrical emergencies. For any pregnancy problems call the OB practice for evaluation or go to the hospital affiliated with your practice. **DO NOT** come to the VA Emergency Center or the Women's Health Clinic.

If you are seen in the Emergency Department, contact the VA Fee Basis Department at once for an explanation regarding how to submit a request for payment of this visit.

Medical Records

You can request a copy of your VA medical records if your OB doctor needs information about your medical history. Ask the front desk staff at your VA primary care clinic for the Release of Information (ROI) Office at the Medical Center or Outpatient Clinic.

After your delivery, please obtain a copy of all important medical notes and tests from your OB doctor and bring these with you to your next VA primary care appointment. Your VA medical provider will want to review this information.

Billing Issues

Billing questions should be referred to your local VA Fee Basis Office. The payment authorization for OB care covers a specified period of time and pays for "bundled obstetrical care". This means that the VA pays the hospital bill and pays the OB doctor at a package rate. If you pay a co-payment when you are seen at the VA, you may still be responsible for it when seen by the OB doctor.

All post-delivery medical care during the first 7 days of a newborn's life is covered by the VA. Examples include: office visits, medications, immunizations, circumcisions, hospitalization and neonatal intensive care. If additional care is needed, the OB office has to submit documentation of medical necessity **prior to the procedure being performed** whenever possible. Depending on urgency of request it should be phoned, faxed, or mailed to the Fee Basis Office for approval. This allows for the OB doctor and hospital to be paid for their services.

Please ask the administrative staff in the OB's office to send their bills directly to the VA Fee Basis Office.

Fax: 412-822-1245

or mail to:

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
1010 Delafield Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15215
ATTN: Fee Basis, Mail Stop 04-A