Please do not send in requests for prescription refills with your payment. If you do, your prescription refill will be delayed.

Where the Money Goes

Funds collected from medication copays, other VA copays and health insurance reimbursements are returned to the local VA health care facility and used to provide additional health care services to Veterans at that facility.

Commonly Asked Questions

Q. If I am required to make a copay and can't, will VA withhold my treatment or medications?

A. No. VA will not withhold treatment or medication. An account is automatically established when you are required to make a copay. However, if you are having financial difficulties and are unable to pay assessed copay charges, you may apply for a hardship, waiver, compromise or repayment plan.

Q. Will the amount of the medication copay and the annual cap ever change?

A. The amount of the medication copay and the cap may be changed on an annual basis. Your VA medical health care facility will inform the Veteran of any medication copay and/or annual cap change.

Q. Will my insurance company be charged for medication for my service-connected condition?

A. No, VA is not authorized to bill your insurance company for medication related to treatment of your service-connected conditions.

Q. Who decides if a medication is for treatment of a non-service-connected condition?

A. A VA health care provider makes this determination. If the medication prescribed is for treatment of a service-connected condition, no copay is required.

Q. Can I get prescriptions from my private health care provider filled at the VA pharmacy?

A. To qualify for pharmacy benefits, you must be enrolled in and receiving health care from the VA health care system. A VA health care provider will review any prescriptions from a private health care provider to determine if they can be rewritten by a VA health care provider and dispensed from a VA pharmacy.

Q. Will I be charged for over-the-counter medications?

A. Medication copays are charged for all over-the-counter medications, such as aspirin, cough syrup, and vitamins that are dispensed from a VA pharmacy. You might want to consider purchasing over-the-counter medications on your own. You are not charged a medication copay for medical supplies (syringes, alcohol wipes, etc.) or for medications administered during treatment.

For more information about medication copays, call 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visit our website: *www.va.gov/healtheligibility*.

Department of Veterans Affairs

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Facts You Should Know

Medication Copay

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Facts You Should Know About Medication Copay

Medication Copays

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) charges a copay for each 30-day or less supply of medication provided on an outpatient basis for the treatment of a non-service-connected condition. For the current calendar year, the copay amounts are:

Priority Groups	Copay Amount		
	1–30 day supply	31–60-day supply	61–90-day supply
2 through 6	$8	$16	$24
7 and 8	$9	$18	$27

Why VA Requires a Medication Copay

By law (PL 101-508 and PL 106-117), VA must charge Veterans a copay for their outpatient medications. The Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act (PL 106-117) authorized VA to increase the copay amount and to establish an annual cap (maximum yearly amount) on the amount of copays charged for medication.

Annual Cap on Medication Copays

An annual cap was established to eliminate financial hardship for Veterans enrolled in Priority Groups 2 through 6, who might require an unusually large amount of medications. The current annual cap that can be charged is $960. Veterans who exceed the annual cap will continue to receive medications without having to make further copays. An annual cap was not established for Veterans enrolled in Priority Groups 7 or 8.

The medication copay applies to you if:

1. You are a Veteran receiving outpatient treatment for a non-service-connected condition, and your annual income exceeds a certain threshold. This threshold changes on an annual basis. For the current amount, contact the Enrollment Coordinator at your nearest VA health care facility.
2. You are a Veteran with a service-connected condition rated less than 50 percent disabled, but are receiving outpatient treatment for a non-service-connected condition, and your annual income exceeds the specified threshold.

Exemptions From Medication Copay

1. Veterans rated 50 percent or more disabled with a service-connected condition.
2. Medications dispensed for service-connected conditions.
3. Veterans who are former POWs.
4. Medication for radiation-exposed and combat Veterans, as authorized under 38 U.S.C. 1710(e).
5. Medication for treatment of military sexual trauma, as authorized under 38 U.S.C. 1720D.
6. Medication for treatment of cancer of the head or neck, as authorized under 38 U.S.C. 1720E.
7. Medications provided as part of a VA-approved research project, as authorized by 38 U.S.C. 7303.
8. Veterans with a low income (annual income lower than the applicable VA pension).

Applying for Low Income Exemption

Veterans who have a service-connection rating of 40% or less and whose income is at or below the applicable National Income Threshold (which can be found at *www.va.gov/healtheligibility)* might wish to complete a medication copay exemption test.

Payment Options

Payment is encouraged, but not required, when you pick up your medications at your VA health care facility. If you are unable to pay at that time, an account will be established for you, and you will be billed monthly. Prescriptions dispensed after hours, on weekends and holidays, in emergency situations and through the Consolidated Mail Out Pharmacy, will be billed to your account.

To avoid interest and administrative charges, make payments before your next monthly billing statement. We encourage you to pay by check, money order or credit card. You should not send cash through the mail. The national payment address is printed on the monthly billing statement. If you would like to pay your VA patient copay balance electronically, you may log into *www.pay.gov* and find "Department of Veterans Affairs" on the agency list. This service is available to you at no cost.

Billing Questions: If you receive a bill that you believe to be in error, please contact the toll-free number listed on your billing statement.

Reimbursements received from insurance carriers will be used to offset or eliminate your copay on a dollar-for-dollar basis. The unpaid VA copay remains your responsibility. VA does not bill High Deductible Health Plans (which are usually linked to a Health Savings Account). Health Savings Accounts cannot be utilized to make VA copays.