

# VA Benefits: OSHIP volunteer webinar

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# Overview of VA

- VBA – Veterans Benefits Administration
  - Cleveland Regional Benefits office
  - Cleveland Regional Loan center
- NCA – National Cemetery Administration
  - Operates 5 cemeteries in OH
- VHA – Veterans Health Administration

# OH Dept of Veterans Services

- Provides training and oversight for County Veterans Services offices (commissions)
- CVSO's funded with county tax dollars
- Coordinates programs and operations with VA
- Operates the OH Veterans Homes in Sandusky and Georgetown

# VHA in OH

- 5 medical centers – Cleveland, Cincinnati, Dayton, Chillicothe and Columbus (outpt only)
- 33 Community Based Outpatient Clinics
  - services available vary based on clinic size and location
- 8 Vet Centers
  - readjustment counseling services for combat veterans and families

# VHA eligibility and enrollment

- [http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/resources/publications/hbco/hbco\\_basic\\_eligibility.asp](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/resources/publications/hbco/hbco_basic_eligibility.asp)
- <http://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/apply/>
- <http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/resources/epublications.asp>

# VA 101 for Medicare recipients

- VA is not health insurance per se, it is a health care system
- VA recommends enrollment in Medicare parts A and B
- VA pharmacy benefit is considered prior creditable coverage
- No coordination of benefits between VA and Medicare
- VA policy regarding Non-VA emergency care

# The “argument” for part B

- Medical care needed or desired outside the VA
- VA does not “cover” the same medical care as part B
- VA health benefits vary depending of veteran’s service connection or priority group

# So...How does a Medicare recipient benefit from services in the VA?

- Nursing home
  - SC, long-term care, hospice room and board
- Home health aid services (nonskilled care)
- Adult Day Care
- In-home respite
- Hearing aids
- Optometry/eyeglasses
- Some DME – grab bars, BSC, guardian alert
- Very limited dental

- Prescription drugs – no donut hole!
- Very limited transportation to VA appts only
- Palliative care
- MST/PTSD – specialty Mental Health care
- Dialysis treatments - requirements
- VA overall makes sense financially for an eligible veteran who has Medicare only or an Advantage Plan to defray costs

# And...When does it make sense for a veteran enrolled in VA healthcare to use their Medicare benefit?

- Skilled care at home
- VA only has outpt therapy available at some locations (example – speech)
- DME, O2, etc will be quicker/more accessible under Medicare benefit (example – wound vac)
- Nursing home – skilled benefit

- Many specialty services will require travel to medical center (example – cancer treatment)

QUESTIONS???