

Mileage Determination

Q: How does the VA determine mileage for travel pay?

A: Mileage is determined by using an authoritative guidance such as Rand McNally or Map Quest. It is determined from zip code to zip code.

Travel to “Preferred” Facility

Q: What if a veteran goes to his “preferred” facility instead of the closest VA facility that can provide the care?

A: Veterans have the choice to go to any VA facility for care. However, travel can only be authorized to the nearest facility **that can provide the needed care**. Therefore, if a **veteran chooses** to go to another facility instead of the one closest to his/her home, he/she is responsible for any costs beyond that for transportation to the closer facility. This includes mileage and special mode transportation.

Fee Basis Travel

Q: Does VA provide travel pay for Fee Basis appointments or appointments when an eligible veteran chooses to use private health insurance to pay for care?

A: If VA is **not** paying for the care, travel at VA expense will not be provided.

Q: How do I request travel for an appointment at a non-va facility?

A: When requesting travel, you must provide proof of attendance. I.e.; appointment slip, statement from the physician, etc.

Q: If I have to pick up medication or supplies, will I receive travel?

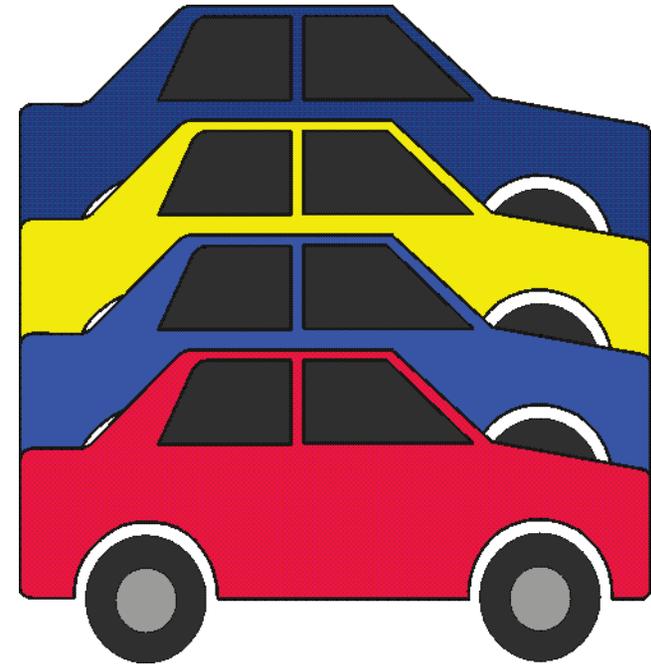
A: No. Travel is not paid if it is solely for medication and supplies.

Q: If I have an appointment two consecutive days and remain in a hotel/motel, am I entitled to travel for both appointments?

A: No. You will receive travel pay for one appointment.

**If you have questions call:
(573) 814-6000 ext. 53162 or 53163**

Eligibility for Travel at Government Expense



**Harry S. Truman
Memorial Veterans' Hospital
Columbia, Missouri**

Eligibility for Travel at Government Expense

Travel Pay

Q: Who can receive travel pay?

- A:**
- For any appointment, if you are 30% or more Service-Connected (SC) for **all** conditions
 - For an appointment that is for your SC condition, if you are rated less than 30%
 - If you receive VA pension benefits for **all** conditions
 - If your annual income is below the maximum applicable annual rate of pension for **all** conditions
 - If you travel for a Compensation and Pension (C&P) Examination, OR
 - If you are enrolled in an authorized Vocational Rehabilitation program for **all** conditions

Q: How do I request Travel Pay?

A: To request travel pay at the **Columbia VA:**

- Monday – Friday, 9a.m.– 4:30p.m.: Go to the Travel Office
- Any other time: Go to the Administrative Officer of the Day in Urgent Care
- You may call the Travel Office

Community Based Outpatient Clinic:

- Notify clerk to request travel pay, then

- Travel pay can be picked up at Travel Office window at VAMC
- Or, it can be mailed to you (takes about 6-8 weeks to receive it)

Mileage Rates

Q: What are current mileage rates for travel?

A: VA currently reimburses 41.5 cents/mile for **ALL** veteran travel.

\$18.00 Deductible

Q: Is the \$18.00 per month deductible for each facility? Who is required to pay deductible?

A: The \$18.00 is the **total** monthly deductible amount for travel to all VA facilities. Therefore, if you travel to several VA facilities, you need to note that when you apply for Travel reimbursement. The facility that is providing the care and travel must contact any other VA facilities to determine if the deductible has been met.

Exemptions to the deductible:

- Travel in conjunction with a Compensation & Pension examination
- Travel made by non-veteran organ donors.

Claims for Beneficiary Travel

Q: How long do veterans have to submit a claim for travel?

A: Claims for travel expenses must be received within 30 days of completion of travel. If claims are not made within 30 days, the benefit will be forfeited.

Special Mode

Q: How is it determined that a veteran requires “Special Mode” transportation? What are the requirements for “Special Mode” transportation?

*(Special mode transportation includes ambulance, ambulette, air ambulance, wheelchair van, and other modes which are specially designed to transport certain disabled individuals. **Special mode DOES NOT include public transportation such as taxi, bus, subway, train, airplane, or privately owned vehicle).***

A. You can receive special mode transportation if:

- you have a compelling medical reason documented by VA physician
- you are administratively eligible for mileage reimbursement