

Prosthetic & Sensory Aids Service (PSAS)

Federal Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

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PSAS Services / Devices / Benefits

Services

- Orthotic and Prosthetic Services, Restorations
- Home Oxygen

Devices

- Durable Medical Equipment and Supplies
- Wheelchairs and Accessories
- Eyeglasses, Blind Aids, Low Vision Aids
- Hearing Aids and Assistive Listening Devices
- Health Monitoring Equipment
- Artificial Limbs/Custom Braces
- Surgical Implants
- Adapted Sports and Recreational Equipment

Benefit Programs

- Automobile Adaptive Equipment (AAE)
- Clothing Allowance
- Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA)



Prosthetic Women's Workgroup (PWW) Goals

- Ensure uniformity in the provision of prosthetic appliances across VA
- Eliminate availability concerns
- Provide medically necessary prosthetic devices and medical aids to women Veterans in accordance with federal rules and regulations governing PSAS programs
- Advocate new legislation, changes to existing legislations
- Eliminate barriers to prosthetics care experienced by women Veterans
- Explore contracting and procurement actions that provide devices made specifically for women
- Identify emerging technology for women and propose ideas for research and development
- Change culture and perception of women Veterans through education and information dissemination

Prosthetic Women's Workgroup (PWW) Goals

- The Program offices of Women's Health and Rehabilitation & Prosthetic services have recently renewed our commitment to one another to continue this workgroup.
- We reflect on progress made toward accomplishing the goals and renew our efforts to accomplish the other goals.
- With the reorganization combining Rehabilitation and Prosthetic services we are uniquely situated to address the devices and the rehabilitation services for women Veterans.

VHA/PSAS Data Summary for FY2007 -2012

VHA and PSAS Statistics	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
VHA Unique Patients Treated	5.4M	5.3M	5.7M	5.5M	5.5M	6.1M
PSAS Expenditures	\$1.2B	\$1.4B	\$1.6B	\$1.8B	\$1.99B	\$2.1B
Number of Items Purchased for Women	638,267	1,205,536	1,393,775	1,599,793	1,890,281	2,189,495
Cost of Items Purchased for Women	\$39.4 M	\$49.7 M	\$61.6 M	\$71.3 M	\$80.2 M	\$91.6 M

Prosthetic Services/Devices FY2012

Device	PSAS Total	Women Total
Wheelchair	\$ 203M	\$ 7M
Artificial Limbs	\$ 122M	\$ 2M
Shoes / Orthosis	\$ 128M	\$ 9M
Dialysis	\$ 3M	\$ 58K
Home Oxygen	\$ 287M	\$ 11M
Medical Equipment	\$ 357M	\$ 22M
Implants	\$ 474M	\$ 21M
Sensory Aids	\$ 346M	\$ 9M

Women Specific Items

FY2009 - 2012

Prosthetic Device	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012
Clothing Items	2,029	2,624	3,394	2,877
Breast Prosthesis	1,403	1,885	2,272	2,699
Breast Pumps & Accessories	130	371	901	1,826
Wigs	138	249	316	369
Pessaries	101	122	106	133
Vaginal Weights	19	27	20	42

Rehabilitation Services for Women as Primary Caregivers

- Rehabilitation is individualized for each Veteran
 - It is a combination of the Veteran's functional deficits and their goals.
 - Goals, roles and responsibilities are discussed, assessed and interventions are provided.
- Women's needs may be addressed differently from men's; e.g., special intervention/programs for women Veterans that are addressed in rehabilitation such as:
 - Breast cancer rehabilitation, pre- and post-pregnancy care, health and wellness, childcare, infant care, feeding and diapering, incontinence, vaginal muscle tone and strengthening , mental health (sexual trauma).

Clothing Allowance

VA must pay an Clothing Allowance to Veterans who have:

- A Service Connected Disability or Condition compensable under 38 U.S.C. 1151 that
 - requires the Veteran to wear or use a prosthetic or orthopedic device that wears or tears clothing
 - medication prescribed by a physician, which causes irreparable damage to the Veteran's outer garments
- Clothing Allowance may be authorized for Veterans who wear and use:
 - Rigid spinal braces
 - Rigid cervical braces
 - Wheelchairs (Manual)
 - Rigid orthotics and/or ankle and or/foot orthosis (AFO)
 - Ileostomy/Colostomy appliances
 - Skin medications and/or ointments

Clothing Allowance

- As of December 16, 2011, Veterans who meet eligibility the criteria may be eligible to:
 - Receive multiple clothing allowance benefits starting 2012;
 - No retroactive payments are allowed.
- Applications should be received by PSAS no later than July 31st.
- 2013 benefit amount is \$753 per approved clothing allowance

Automobile Adaptive Equipment (AAE)

- Program provides the necessary equipment and training to enable a disabled Veteran or Service member to operate a motor vehicle safely and permit access to and from the vehicle in a safe manner.
- Team effort involves the physician, the driver rehabilitation specialist, and the prosthetic representative.
- Commonly prescribed AAE: cruise control; van lifts; air conditioning; power transfer seat; low effort braking systems.
- VA can reimburse any Veteran for up to 2 vehicles within a 4-year period.
- VBA's Automobile Grant increased in October 2012 to \$19,505.

Home Improvement & Structural Alterations (HISA)

- The HISA benefit provides home improvements and structural alterations necessary only to ensure the continuation of treatment and/or to provide access to the home or to essential lavatory and sanitary facilities (authorized under Title 38(U.S.C.) Section 1717)
 - Lifetime benefit up to **\$6,800** may be provided for:
 - Veterans and Servicemembers who have a Service-connected condition
 - Veteran who have a Non-service-connected condition rated 50% or more service connected
 - Lifetime benefit up to **\$2,000** may be provided for:
 - Non-service-connected Veterans
- Common prescribed HISA items include:
 - Roll in showers or walk in bathtubs
 - Construction of wooden or concrete permanent ramping to provide access to the home
 - Widening doorways to bedrooms, bathrooms, etc to achieve wheelchair access
 - Lowering of kitchen or bathroom counters and sinks, etc.

Thank You

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