

DENTAL BENEFITS FOR THOSE WHO SERVED 90 OR MORE DAYS ON ACTIVE DUTY

All RC Service Members on AD greater than 90 consecutive days are eligible for a one time dental health benefit through the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) system subject to the requirements/limitations defined in Title 38 USC. Soldiers have **90 days** from their release from active duty (REFRAD) to contact the DVA to coordinate dental treatment. Depending on the capacity and location of the individual DVA dental treatment facility (DTF), Soldiers may be treated in the DVA DTF or be referred to a local civilian dental provider. The one-time DVA dental health benefit consists of a dental examination, a dental cleaning, and most dental treatment to resolve dental diseases and problems that existed while on active duty. The dental health benefit ends when treatment requirements identified at the initial DVA exam have been completed. Orthodontic and dental implant procedures are not a covered benefit. Details on using DVA dental benefits are:

1. Soldier must contact and apply for post-active duty dental health benefits from a DVA facility nearest their post-active duty location within ninety days of REFRAD date. Application process consists of mailing, faxing, or hand delivering a completed DVA form 10-10EZ and a copy of the DD 214 to the dental department of the DVA facility. Service Member's DD 214 must be marked " **NO**. *Member was provided a complete Dental Exam and all appropriate Dental services and treatment within 90 days prior to separation.*" Make sure the DVA facility clearly understands you are applying for the "recently discharged veteran's dental health benefits" only. If you are applying for other healthcare benefits, you will have to submit an additional application to the benefits eligibility office. Service members can access these forms and locate the nearest DVA facility online at http://www.appc1.va.gov/Health_Benefits/.
2. If the Soldier encounters difficulty accessing or applying for DVA dental health benefits, the Soldier should contact directly the local DVA dental eligibility clerk, the local DVA Chief of Dental Services, the Veterans Service Officer, or the DVA health benefits help line, 1-877-222-8387, in that order.

Transitional Health Benefits (THB), outlined in Title 10 USC, Section 1145, allow for the provision of dental services on a space available basis in military dental clinics. If soldiers have less than 6 years creditable service, they are eligible for 60 days of space-available dental care; if greater than 6 years service, they have 120 days. Unfortunately, space-available dental care in CONUS dental facilities is severely restricted. Staffing of military dental clinics is based on the supported active duty population; as a result, current staffing and policies governing dental readiness do not allow for significant space-available treatment time. A DD214 form documenting the entry date, separation date and length of service is required for the dental treatment facility to determine if the soldier is eligible for space-available THB dental care.

The final option is voluntary enrollment in the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP). Selected Reserve and IRR members are eligible for TDP, a government cost share dental insurance program, which provides reasonably priced access to comprehensive dental care from the civilian dentist of their choice. To minimize costs, enrollees are encouraged to utilize the TDP's participating network of dentists for their care. Enrollment in TDP requires a 12-month commitment and includes an optional family member benefit for an additional premium. RC soldiers, who were participating in the TDP prior to deployment and were dropped from the program when activated, will automatically be re-enrolled following DEMOB when their military status is updated in DEERS. Because of processing time, a small gap in coverage may occur between the deactivation date and the date TDP re-enrollment coverage begins. All TDP enrollees should contact the TDP contractor to verify coverage prior to seeking dental services after REFRAD. (<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/dental/>)