



## Veteran healthcare cards

The Department of Veterans' Affairs issues Gold, White and Orange veteran cards to support the medical needs of veterans, eligible dependents, and certain other eligible individuals. These cards offer various benefits.

Reference: [DVA's Quick Guide for GPs: What's a Veteran Card?](#)

## How to check what's covered

Veteran Card holders may present digital versions of their plastic DVA White or Gold Cards, which clients can access through the online DVA portal MyService. For white card holders, you can view which of your patient's health conditions are covered by DVA, below their digital card on their MyService account, on their device, once they log in. You can also check what's covered by calling 1800 550 457.

### Overview of the Veteran Healthcare Cards

|                     | <b>Gold</b><br>These Veterans usually have the most complex health needs  | <b>White</b><br>The most common – every veteran should have one   | <b>Orange</b><br>Increasingly rare   |
|---------------------|---|---|--|
| What does it cover? | Free treatment for all medical conditions, whether they are related to military service or not.   | Free treatment for accepted service-related conditions and for <i>any</i> mental health condition. Holders with certain types of service within the ADF may also be eligible for free treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis and cancer diagnoses. What they are eligible for is not written on the card. | A concession rate on prescription items, including medicines, wound care and nutritional supplements.  |
| Eligibility (who)   | Veterans and dependents (including war widows/widowers) who meet specific eligibility criteria. <sup>1</sup>  | Former ADF members (who have served at least one day with the ADF)<br>Reservists and Commonwealth or Allied veterans with a service-related injury or condition accepted by their country of service.   | Commonwealth or allied veteran or mariner who have qualifying service from the Second World War AND have been a resident of Australia for more than 10 years.  |
| Benefits            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>clinically necessary health care services in Australia listed on the Medicare Benefits Scheme (MBS)</li> <li>items on the <a href="#">Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule</a> (PBS) or <a href="#">Repatriation PBS (RPBS)</a></li> </ul> | clinically necessary treatment, pharmaceuticals and services for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any service-related injuries or conditions accepted by the DVA</li> <li>any mental health condition under Non-Liability Health Care (NLHC),</li> </ul>   | access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>pharmaceuticals listed under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)</li> <li>i.e., prescription medicines, wound care items and nutritional supplements at a concession rate.</li> </ul> |

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|                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● clinically necessary, evidence-based treatment items that are not listed on the MBS with <a href="#">prior approval from DVA</a></li> <li>● some items that are not on the PBS or RPBS with <a href="#">prior approval from the DVA</a> (call 1800 552 580 for authority prescriptions)</li> <li>● Other services and support, including counselling, community nursing, home help, access to aids, appliances, and modifications, and care services.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● a cancer (malignant neoplasm) or pulmonary tuberculosis under Non-Liability Health Care (if listed on their white card)</li> </ul>   | <p>The card cannot be used for medical or other health care treatment.</p>   |
| <p>Additional notes</p> | <p>Clinically necessary medical treatment is free for the veteran if they see a provider who accepts DVA fees.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The eligibility criteria for treatment for cancer and pulmonary are not the same as for mental health coverage. Check the white card for the individuals eligibility.</li> <li>● Clinically necessary medical treatment for is free for the veteran if they see a provider who accepts DVA fees</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● When buying prescription items, cardholders will need to pay \$7.70 for each item until they reach their Safety Net Threshold for the calendar year.</li> </ul> |

Notes on Gold Card eligibility:

1. Further detail on eligibility criteria for the Gold Card, which include:

**Veterans** who:

- have qualifying service in a war or operational area and meet certain age (70 years) or service length criteria
- receive a Disability Compensation Payment at or above the 50% general rebate
- receive a Service Pension and also receiving an Income Support Supplement
- have a specific level of incapacity due to their service

**Widows/Widowers** who:

- receive a War Widow's/Widower's Pension
- are partners of deceased veterans who were eligible for a Gold Card

**Commonwealth and Allied veterans** who meet certain eligibility criteria

**Australian civilians** who meet certain eligibility criteria, for example:

- Australian Mariners
- Australian civilian British Nuclear Test participant
- members of medical/surgical teams employed in Vietnam

How to support your veteran to get a card if they don't have one

<https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/health-support/veteran-healthcare-cards/veteran-card#how-to-get-your-veteran-card>

The [DVA Health and community services for DVA clients quick guide](#) lists services DVA offer veterans and their families, who's eligible and how patients can access these services.