VA MISSION Act
Overview
Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center – Spokane, WA
Start date 6-6-2019
Today’s Agenda

1. What the MISSION Act is and isn’t
2. New Community Care Eligibility Criteria
3. New Benefit: Urgent Care
4. Copayment Rates at a Glance
5. Resources for Veterans
6. What does the Veteran need to do?
7. Questions
What the MISSION Act is and isn’t

The MISSION Act **does:**
- Replaces the Choice Program
- Provides opportunity for more veterans to be seen in the community

The MISSION Act **doesn’t:**
- Promise or guarantee that the veteran will be seen sooner out in the community
- Force the Veteran to use Community Care System
New Community Care Eligibility Criteria

1. Services unavailable at VA
2. Best medical interest
3. Quality Standards
4. Access Standards
5. Grandfathered Choice eligibility
6. State with no full-service VA medical facility
1. Services Unavailable at VA

**Services unavailable at VA** (ex: maternity care, IVF)

➢ Under this provision, Veterans would be eligible to receive care in the community for care or services that VA does not provide in-house at any of its medical facilities.
2. Best Medical Interest

Best Medical Interest

- Under this provision, Veterans would be eligible to receive care in the community if it’s in the Veteran’s best medical interest as determined by a VA provider in discussion with the Veteran.

This is a conversation between veteran and VA provider.
Quality Standards (implemented after June 2019)

- Under this provision, Veterans would be eligible to receive care in the community for medical services provided in-house at VA that don’t meet VA’s quality standards, within certain limitations.
4. Access Standards

VA cannot furnish care within certain designated access standards

➢ Under this provision, Veterans would be eligible to receive care in the community when the VA cannot provide service in-house within designated access standards defined by average drive time and/or wait time.
4. Access Standards continued (Wait Time)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACCESS STANDARDS</th>
<th>Primary Care, Mental Health, Non-institutional Extended Care</th>
<th>Specialty Care</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drive Time</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>60 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wait Time</td>
<td>20 days</td>
<td>28 days</td>
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Grandfathered Choice Eligibility

- Veteran was eligible under the distance criteria (continue to meet the distance criteria) for the Veterans Choice Program on June 5, 2018
  
  AND

- They live in one of the five U.S. states with the lowest populations (North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Alaska, and Wyoming) or

- Veteran received care in the year prior to enactment the VA MISSION Act of 2018 AND requires care before June 6, 2020
6. State with No Full-Service VA Medical Facility

Residence in a State without a full-service VA medical facility

➢ Under this provision, Veterans living in Alaska, Hawaii, New Hampshire, and the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, and Virgin Islands would be eligible to receive care in the community.
Urgent Care Overview

- Establishes a new benefit for urgent (walk-in) care
- Must meet specific eligibility requirements
  - Enrolled in VA healthcare
  - Received care through the VA in the last 24 months prior to the visit
- Provides Veterans with access to urgent, non-emergency care (e.g. non-life threatening conditions) through the VA contracted network of community providers (Tri-West or CCN contractor)
- Includes services such as: flu shot, ear infections, strep throat, pink eye
## COPAYMENT RATES AT A GLANCE:
Copayment Rates will not change under MISSION Act

| Priority Group 1 (SC 50% or more, Medal of Honor (MOH)) | Inpatient Care ($10 per day + $1,340 for first 90 days and $670 after 90 days – based on 365-day period) | Outpatient Care ($15 Primary Care; $50 Specialty Care; $0 for x-rays, lab, immunizations, etc.) | Outpatient Medication (30-day or less supply PG 2-8 Calendar Year cap - $700) | Extended Care Services
Institutional NHCU, Respite, Geriatric Eval - $0-97 per day. Non-institutional Respite, Geriatric Eval, ADHC - $15 Domiciliary - $5 |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Priority Groups 2, 3 (SC 10% - 40%)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>No medication copayment for SC condition, former POWs, or Catastrophically Disabled Veterans ** former POWs not exempted</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes*</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>**Priority Group 4</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No**</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority Group 5</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No medication copayment if in receipt of VA pension or income below applicable pension threshold</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Priority Group 6 (Combat Veteran, SHAD, SC 0% compensable, Ionization radiation, Agent Orange exposure, Southwest Asia service, stationed at Camp Lejeune August 1, 1953 - December 31, 1987)</td>
<td>No****</td>
<td>No****</td>
<td>No****</td>
<td>No****</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>***Copay rules apply if care or service provided is unrelated to VA’s exposure treatment authorities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Priority Group 7</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Inpatient copay is reduced 80% of full rate</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Priority Group 8</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unless income is below applicable pension threshold for medication and extended care services copayment</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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Resources

Contact Numbers:
Office of Community Care (OCC): (509) 484-7969
Primary Care: (509) 434-7026
Spokane Eligibility: (509) 434-7009
Spokane VA main number: (509) 434-7000

Web pages:
https://www.va.gov/communitycare/
https://www.va.gov/communitycare/about_us/contacts.asp
https://joinournetwork.triwest.com/Forms/AddProvider.aspx
What does the Veteran need to do?

Step 1: Make sure you are enrolled at local VA Hospital
Step 2: Make sure that Eligibility has updated information.
Step 3: Reach out to Your Primary Care Doctor or Team

- Step 3a (Choice 40): If Veteran qualifies for grandfathered Choice 40, Veteran can call OCC (Office of Community Care) for the following 3 types of consults:
  - Primary Care, Audiology or Optometry