



April 2006

VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA (VAC) REHABILITATION PROGRAM RELATED HEALTH SERVICES - PROGRAM OF CHOICE (POC) 12

Beginning April 01, 2006, Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) will implement the VAC *Rehabilitation Program*, under the *Canadian Forces Members and Veterans Re-establishment and Compensation Act (CFMVRCA)* or New Veterans Charter.

The current Veterans Charter was developed following the Second World War. Although programs and services for Veterans have evolved to some degree to meet the needs of clients, the needs of younger Canadian Forces Veterans are not being met by the existing programs. As such, a *New Veterans Charter* has been introduced.

This new charter will offer programs designed to provide clients and their families with the best opportunity to transition to an independent and productive civilian life. One of the key elements of this charter is the VAC *Rehabilitation Program*.

Blue Cross will be responsible for administering the treatment associated with the VAC *Rehabilitation Program*. Providers may submit claims for services rendered to Veterans who qualify for this program only when approved and pre-authorized as part of the case plan developed by VAC for the specific client.

The following new *Rehabilitation Program* benefit codes will be in place April 01, 2006:

Benefit Code	Description
240300	Rehabilitation Program - Psychologist Initial Assessment (Includes reports of findings and Recommendations)
240302	Rehabilitation Program - Psychologist - Progress Report
240303	Rehabilitation Program - Psychologist Visit - Pain Management
240304	Rehabilitation Program - Psychologist Visit - Sleep Disorders
240305	Rehabilitation Program - Psychologist Visit - Addictions
240306	Rehabilitation Program - Psychologist Visit - Individual Counselling for Spouse / Dependant
240307	Rehabilitation Program - Psychologist Visit - Family / Couples Counselling
249049	Rehabilitation Program - Psychological Counselling - Group Therapy
240308	Rehabilitation Program - Social Worker - Family / Couples Counselling
240309	Rehabilitation Program - Social Worker - Group Therapy
240310	Rehabilitation Program - Exercise / Swimming Program Fees



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Up-to-date benefit grids detailing information pertaining to the pre-authorization and billing requirements attached to each of the above benefit codes will be available April 01, 2006.

Providers will notice some variations in the management of this *Rehabilitation Program* compared to the existing VAC programs. Two examples of these variations:

- **Veterans falling under the New Veterans Charter will not be issued a Health Identification Card. Rather the Veterans will present the providers with a letter of authorization for services that will outline for the provider the entitlement of the client and will provide contact information for the provider to obtain an authorization to provide the service, as well as additional information and claim submission details. The title of this letter is:**

“VAC HEALTH IDENTIFICATION LETTER FOR REHABILITATION PROGRAM”

- **Veterans who qualify for the VAC *Rehabilitation Program* will be eligible to receive pre-authorized rehabilitation services during their participation in the program. It is anticipated that on average Veterans will participate in the VAC *Rehabilitation Program* for a maximum of two years prior to a full transition to civilian life.**

It is important to note that the introduction of the VAC *Rehabilitation Program* will not affect existing clients.

We thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation as we work to continue to provide quality services to our mutual clients.

Please direct all inquiries pertaining to claims submission or payment reconciliation, including requests for updated Provider Benefit Grids, to your regional Blue Cross Office at 1-888-261-4033.