

## Billing

Billing questions should be referred to your local VA Fee Basis Office. The payment authorization for an Obstetrician (a physician that specializes in caring for pregnant women through pregnancy) or Family Practice doctor care covers a specific time period. This means that the VA pays for the hospital bill and pays the Obstetrician or Family Practice doctor a fee based rate.

If you pay a co-payment when you are seen at the VA, you may still be responsible for the co-payments when seen by your Obstetrician or Family Practice doctor. At the present time, the VA authorization covers payment for the veteran's care, but **not** the bill for the baby's care.

If additional care is needed above what was originally authorized, the obstetrician or Family Practice doctor has to submit documentation of medical necessity **prior to the procedure being performed** whenever possible.

## Congratulations to you!

VA is interested in partnering with you and your physicians to coordinate your health care. We have dedicated staff that are ready to assist you in this process. Please contact them for further information or assistance.

## For more information call:

Women Veterans Program Manager

Contact Name:  
Telephone:

Fee Basis Office at your preferred VA Medical Center (for billing questions).

Contact Name:  
Telephone:  
FAX:

William S. Middleton  
Memorial Veterans Hospital  
2500 Overlook Terrace  
Madison, WI 53705

DEC 2009

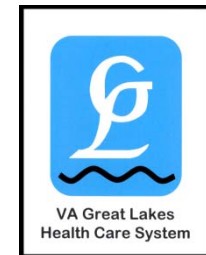
## VISN 12

### WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

*You served, you deserve  
★ the best care anywhere*



## Maternity Care Benefits



## Benefits

All women veterans enrolled at a VA Medical Center or Clinic can receive maternity benefits through the VA.

### As soon as you think you are pregnant:

1. Contact your VA Health Care Provider.
2. When you receive the letter authorizing your maternity care, make an appointment with the doctor you want to deliver your baby. Remember, you must choose a doctor who is willing to accept VA's rate of reimbursement.
3. If you do not have private insurance, you must arrange for your baby's health insurance. If you do not have private insurance that will cover your baby, there are programs that can help you.

### Wisconsin BadgerCare:

1-800-362-2000

[www.badgercareplus.org/index.htm](http://www.badgercareplus.org/index.htm).

### Illinois Programs:

<http://www.illinoishealthwomen.com>

<http://www.familycareillinois.com>

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

<http://fns.usda.gov/wic/>

### Michigan Programs:

MiChild

1-888-988-6300

[http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/1,1607,7-132-2943\\_4845\\_4931---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/1,1607,7-132-2943_4845_4931---,00.html)

## Included Maternity Benefits:

- Prenatal Care and vitamins
- Labor, delivery, and a postpartum exam
- Any other medically necessary treatments
- Breast pumps
- Prescriptions filled at VA pharmacy

## Not covered by maternity benefits:

- Prescriptions filled at an outside pharmacy, except for emergencies
- Transportation to and from prenatal and post-partum appointment
- Home deliveries
- Experimental or non-VA approved medical procedures
- Medical care for your newborn baby

## Emergency Care

For maternity related medical emergencies, go to the hospital where your doctor will deliver your baby. Do not come to the VA. Contact the VA as soon as possible to report an emergency visit.

## Medication Information

Although medications like prenatal vitamins are often ordered by your VA Primary Care provider during your pregnancy, other medications directly related to your pregnancy should be handled by your Obstetrician or Family Practice doctor.

Medications ordered by the Obstetrician and Family Practice doctor should be filled by your VA Pharmacy.

There is a form that must be completed for this coverage. The requirement for a co-payment is similar to other copayments and is based on eligibility. Contact your local VA pharmacy for details.

## After the baby is born

After your six-week check up you will usually return to your VA Primary Care Provider. Women who have a C-section (surgical delivery of the baby) may have several appointments before returning to the VA for care.

## Depression after pregnancy

Women often feel sad, afraid, angry, or nervous after their baby is born. These feelings usually go away in one to two weeks. With postpartum depression, symptoms get worse and stay for more than two weeks. Postpartum depression is a serious condition and early diagnosis and treatment is needed.

Contact your VA Primary Care Provider immediately if you think you have symptoms of **postpartum depression**. If you are having thoughts of harming yourself or others go to the nearest emergency medical facility, or call the **VA National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** at **1-800-273-8255**. This is a 24-hour, toll-free suicide prevention service available to anyone in emotional crisis.