

Does a Veteran need to be married to be eligible for VA ART/IVF benefits?

No, a Veteran's marital status is not a factor in determining their eligibility for VA ART/IVF benefits. If a Veteran has infertility causally related to their service-connected disability, they may be eligible regardless of sexual orientation or relationship status.

Will an eligible Veteran's ART/IVF benefit cover ART/IVF treatment for the Veteran's partner?

Yes, if the Veteran's partner is their lawful spouse and the Veteran is eligible for VA ART/IVF benefits. By law, VA can only cover eligible Veterans and their legal spouses. VA cannot provide services to an eligible Veteran's partner who is not their lawful spouse.

Can Veterans use donor eggs, sperm, or embryos for fertility treatment?

Yes, Veterans may obtain donor eggs, sperm, or embryos for use in fertility treatments. However, VA does not cover the cost of obtaining donor eggs, sperm, or embryos.

Does VA cover fertility preservation?

Fertility preservation is a preventive measure that is performed before medical treatments that could cause infertility. It is the process where eggs or sperm are frozen to preserve them for an extended period of time. VA covers this if a necessary medical treatment is likely to prevent a Veteran from using their own eggs or sperm in the future. For example, this could happen during cancer treatment like chemotherapy, or gender-affirming interventions. However, VA does not cover fertility preservation for delayed childbearing alone. Storage of eggs or sperm for fertility preservation is covered for 10 years under the benefit.

Where can a Veteran go to learn more?

Speak with your VA Primary Care Provider (VA PCP). They can make appropriate referrals to specialists. If you do not have a PCP, contact your local VA medical facility or the WVCC.

WHAT IF A VETERAN ELIGIBLE FOR ART/IVF WOULD LIKE TO PURSUE ADOPTION?

Veterans who are eligible for VA ART/IVF benefits are also eligible to receive an adoption reimbursement benefit. Adoption benefits include up to \$2,000 per adopted child under the age of 18 years, with maximum reimbursement of \$5,000 in any calendar year for adopting multiple children under the age of 18. Apply using Form 10-10152: Reimbursement Request for Qualifying Adoption Expenses.



WOMEN VETERANS CALL CENTER
855.VA.WOMEN

Call or text us at 855-VA-WOMEN (855-829-6636).
WVCC representatives are available Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. ET, and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. ET.

You can also chat with us online and learn more by visiting womenshealth.va.gov

Am I Eligible for VA Health Care?

Everyone's situation is unique and so is their eligibility. To find out if you are eligible to enroll, visit va.gov/health-care/eligibility

Apply Online or By Mail

Go to va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply

Apply in Person

Visit the nearest VA medical center or clinic. You can locate your nearest VA health facility at va.gov/find-locations

Apply by Phone

To apply for VA benefits you may have earned—such as preventative care, inpatient and urgent care services—call 1-877-222-8387

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–8 p.m. ET.
Veterans Benefits Administration 1-800-827-1000
benefits.va.gov

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VETERANS HEALTH CARE

FERTILITY SERVICES



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

VA FERTILITY & FAMILY-BUILDING SERVICES



If you are having challenges building your family, you are not alone. At VA, we understand that trying to build your family can place stress on you and your relationships. We are here to support you. VA covers a wide range of fertility treatments, procedures, and services.

WHAT IS INFERTILITY?

Infertility is a condition characterized by any of the following:

- The inability to achieve a successful pregnancy as established by your medical, sexual, and reproductive history, age, physical findings, diagnostic testing, or any combination of these factors, or
- The need for medical intervention, including, but not limited to, the use of donor eggs, donor sperm, or donor embryos in order to achieve pregnancy, either as an individual or with a partner.

VA is here to support all Veterans seeking to build their families.

HOW DOES COVERAGE FOR FERTILITY EVALUATION AND TREATMENT WORK IN VA?

Fertility **evaluation and some treatments** are covered for **all Veterans** who use VA health care under the Medical Benefits Package regardless of service connection, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, relationship, or marital status.

Fertility evaluation may include:

- History and physical exam
- Laboratory tests
- Imaging services such as ultrasounds and X-rays
- Genetic counseling and testing

Fertility treatments may include:

- Hormonal therapies for gonadal stimulation
- Surgical treatments for conditions affecting fertility
- Consultation for reversal of sterilization
- Intrauterine insemination (IUI)
- Sperm retrieval techniques for IUI
- Use of donor sperm for IUI, purchased by the Veteran
- Counseling related to fertility care

Not all Veterans will need all these treatments. Some Veterans may have a cause of their infertility that requires assisted reproductive technologies (ART) to build their families.

WHAT IS ART/IVF?

ART is any treatment or procedure that includes the handling of human eggs and sperm or embryos, outside of the human body, for the purpose of establishing pregnancy.

ART includes, but is not limited to:

- in vitro fertilization (IVF);
- embryo transfer;
- gamete (egg and sperm) and embryo cryopreservation;
- genetic testing of the embryo(s);
- and manipulation of sperm and eggs.

IVF is an assisted reproductive technology (ART) procedure in which an egg is removed from a mature ovarian follicle and fertilized by a sperm cell outside the body. Then the fertilized egg, also known as an embryo, is allowed to develop in a protected environment for several days. It is then either transferred into a uterus or frozen (cryopreserved).

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR VA ART/IVF BENEFITS?

To be eligible for VA ART/IVF benefits, a Veteran must have a VBA-adjudicated service-connected disability or treatment of a VBA-adjudicated service-connected disability that is causally related to their infertility. This means that the VBA-adjudicated service-connected disability, or its treatment, caused the infertility. Eligible Veterans may be married, unmarried, or single. The lawful spouse of an eligible Veteran, if applicable, is also eligible for benefits.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN VA ART/IVF BENEFITS?

ART/IVF benefits cover the same VA fertility services that all Veterans are eligible for under the Medical Benefits Package, as well as:

- ART/IVF, including counseling, evaluation, and treatment
- Veteran's lifetime benefits of 6 attempts to create embryos
- Veteran's lifetime benefit of 3 completed embryo transfer cycles
- Cryopreservation of sperm, eggs, and embryos
- Storage of cryopreserved sperm, eggs, and embryos until the death of the Veteran

