

# Getting Your Veteran with ALS the Benefits They Deserve

As a caregiver of a veteran, your loved one has selflessly dedicated themselves to protecting our country and bettering the lives of others. As their caregiver, you have dedicated yourself to caring for them and now it's time to get the additional support that you and your loved one deserve. Service members affected by amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) may be able to access valuable treatment through service connection at their local VA Medical Center.



If your loved one developed ALS, manifested at any time after discharge or release from active military service, he/she has established service connection with at least 90 days of continuous service. Service connection entitles your veteran to treatment at a VA Medical Center for ALS at no additional cost, along with other healthcare benefits such as in-home care and facility placement that consistently exceed those benefits offered through other health plans.

The VA's benefits for service connected veterans afford you and your loved one valuable benefits to allow you, as caregiver, to maintain your own care. It is vital that you have the ability to work, have hobbies and provide self care in support of your own wellbeing. Caregiver burnout can be avoided when you are healthy and happy.

## BENEFITS OVERVIEW

### Inpatient care\*

- **Community Living Center (CLC)** is a VA nursing home that offers short or long-term stays with various levels of care from light assistance to skilled care.

- **Community Residential Care (CRC)** program is geared toward veterans who do not need hospital or nursing home care but cannot live alone due to medical or psychiatric conditions.
- **Community Nursing Home (CNH)** is a full-time live in community where veterans can receive skilled nursing care day or night.

### Home Based Services\*

- **Homemaker/Home Health Aide** is a trained caregiver who assists with the veteran's daily activities in the home. Homemakers and home health aides are not nurses, but they are supervised by a registered nurse.
- **Expanded Care/Private Duty Nursing** is for veterans needing up to 24 hour skilled nursing care in the home.
- **Skilled Home Health Care** is for veterans needing short-term care as they are transitioning from a hospital or nursing home back to their home. It can also be used to provide continuing care to those with ongoing needs. The program offers skilled services such as: skilled nursing, case management, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, wound care, and intravenous (IV) antibiotics.

## WHAT VETERANS ARE SAYING

"When we were notified that Maxim Healthcare Services would be able to provide skilled nursing services our world changed for the better. I am now able to focus on tasks, sleep at night, and start to take care of myself again. Our new normal looks bright and Damon is happy and comfortable exactly where he wants to be, at home."

– Sarah, Damon's caregiver

\*To find out how to access these services, contact your VA social worker or call the VA's toll-free hotline at 877-222-8387, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET.

# Veteran Families and ALS Service Connection

## HOME HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Below is an overview of the in-home services coverage provided by various insurers compared to what your veterans may be entitled to through their service connection with the VHA.

In-Home Services	Veterans Health Administration	Medicaid	Medicare	Commercial Insurance
Homemaker Home Health Aide	<a href="#">3 - 168 hours/week</a>	<a href="#">Optional Benefit – Varies by State</a>	<a href="#">Not covered when this is the only care you need</a>	Varies by Insurer but not typically a covered benefit
Expanded Care/ Private Duty Nursing	<a href="#">Covered Benefit</a>	<a href="#">Optional Benefit – Varies by State</a>	<a href="#">Not A Covered Benefit</a>	Varies by Insurer and sometimes covered with benefit limits and varying qualifications for coverage
Skilled Home Health Care	<a href="#">Covered Benefit</a>	<a href="#">Mandatory Benefit</a>	<a href="#">Covered Benefit</a>	Varies by Insurer and typically covered with benefit limits
Skilled Home Health Care Therapies	<a href="#">Covered Benefit</a>	<a href="#">Optional Benefit – Varies by State</a>	<a href="#">Covered Benefit</a>	Varies by Insurer and typically covered with benefit limits

## APPLYING FOR YOUR VA BENEFITS\*\*

Assist Your Veteran in Registering for the Benefits They Deserve Today

Check your eligibility	Gather required documents	Apply for benefits
<p>You can check your eligible benefits here:</p> <p><a href="https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/">https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/</a></p>	<p><b>You'll need to provide:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Security Card</li> <li>• Military Discharge Papers (DD214 or other separation documents)</li> <li>• Insurance Card information</li> </ul>	<p><b>Online:</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/id-form">https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/id-form</a></p> <p><b>By phone:</b></p> <p>877-222-8387, M-F, 8a.m.- 8p.m. EST</p> <p><b>By mail:</b></p> <p>Health Eligibility Center 2957 Clairmont Rd. Suite 200 Atlanta, GA 30329</p> <p><b>In person:</b></p> <p>At your nearest VA medical center or clinic. Find your nearest VA medical center at: <a href="https://www.va.gov/find-locations/">https://www.va.gov/find-locations/</a></p>

\*\*Consider appointing an individual or a Veterans Service Organization to assist with your VA benefits using VA Form 21-22 at <https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-21-22/>