

## **Key Points of the VA Choice Card Program**

The Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA) is intended to allow VA to meet the demand for Veterans health care in the short-term.

VA has signed contracts with two private health care companies to help VA administer the Veterans Choice Program (Choice Program) under VACAA.

The Choice Program is a **new, temporary benefit allowing some Veterans to receive health care in their communities rather than waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a VA facility.**

**It does not impact existing VA health care** or any other VA benefits a veteran may be receiving.

As part of this new program, **VA will be issuing a Veterans Choice Card to every Veteran who is potentially eligible for the new, temporary health benefit.**

**The Choice Card allows Veterans to elect to receive care outside of VA** when they qualify for the new program based on:

- the distance of their residence from a VA care facility
- or when wait times for VA health care exceed the standards established in law.

**The Choice Card does not replace the identification card** you already use to access other VA benefits; please do not throw away that identification card.

**The Choice Card will be issued in three phases:**

- The first group of Choice Cards along with a letter explaining eligibility for this program is currently being sent to Veterans who may live more than 40 miles from a VA facility.
- The next group of Choice Cards and letters will be sent shortly thereafter to those Veterans who are currently waiting for an appointment longer than 30-days from their preferred date or the date determined to be medically necessary by their physician.
- The final group of Choice Cards and letters will be sent between December 2014 and January 2015 to the remainder of all Veterans enrolled for VA health care who may be eligible for the Choice Program in the future.

Visit VA web site at **[www.va.gov/opa/choiceact](http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact)** for helpful information on Choice Program eligibility.