



Counties of Inyo & Mono Veterans Service Office

207 W. South Street
Bishop, CA 93514
760-873-7850 – Phone
760-873-7851 – Fax
icvso@inyocounty.us – Email



NEWSRELEASE

The Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act (VACAA) of 2014

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 your existing VA health care or any other VA benefit you may be receiving. Implementation of this benefit began on November 5, as required by law. A call center is now operational to answer your questions and verify your eligibility for this program.

As part of this new program, they 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.

Please visit Web site at www.va.gov/opa/choiceact for helpful information on Choice Program eligibility, or contact your local Veteran Service Office at 760-873-7850.