VA Clothing Allowance

Did you know the VA may pay you, a Veteran, for damage to clothing caused by prosthetic or orthopedic appliances if they are prescribed for service connected disabilities? Did you know this includes medications/ointments prescribed for service connected disabilities that stain clothing/garments?

Yes, under the authority of Title 38 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3.810, the VA will pay one or more annual clothing allowances to eligible Veterans. The prosthetic item or ointment must be prescribed by your provider. The item or ointment must be for a service connected condition. This also includes disabilities compensable under 38 U.S.C. 1151 as if it were service-connected.

The Clothing Allowance benefit is a collaborative effort by The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). The VBA establishes the service connected disabilities and disabilities compensable under section 1151. The VHA provides medical verification and evaluation.

To apply for the Clothing Allowances, a Veteran would complete a VA Form 10-8678 and submit it to their local Prosthetics Department at their VA Medical Center. The form can be found on the VA website at: https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-8678-fill.pdf

The item or medication must cause irreparable damage to clothing. Generally speaking, scooters, an elastic brace, or rigid items covered in padding, would not be considered to cause damage to clothing. However, rigid braces or appliances, wheelchairs with posturing and positioning equipment, or no clothing guards, colostomy appliances, could be eligible. Service dogs could even be considered to cause damage according to VHA Handbook 1173.15. Although there is no written policy for service animals and clothing at this time; I would encourage any veteran who thinks they may be eligible, to submit an application for review.

Continued on Pg. 18
Mission Statement
The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter strives to improve the quality of life of honorably discharged veterans who have spinal cord injury, dysfunction or illness including but not limited to multiple sclerosis and ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease) through advocacy, medical research, sports and recreation, education and communication.

DISCLAIMER
The Buckeye Banner is a publication of the Buckeye Chapter, PVA and is meant to inform its readers of Chapter activities, legislation, and other matters of concern to veterans and/or members of the disability community. The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of BPVA, its Officers, Board Members, the Editor or production staff.

Rev 12/17
President’s Report

F all is on its way as summer becomes a memory. Hopefully you took time to enjoy the sunny days.

The 38th National Veteran Wheelchair Games were held July 30th thru August 4th in Orlando, FL. Team Buckeye was on their “A” game as always and did an outstanding job. Holly has details in her sports report. WAY TO GO TEAM!!

The Chapter’s Annual Golf Scramble fundraiser was held August 27th at Windmills Lake Golf Course just north of Ravenna on State Route 14. This event could not have happened without our staff, Sharon and Ava, chapter volunteers and the Windmills staff who did another fantastic job.

Also, a THANK YOU to all the golfers who came out to support the chapter’s fundraiser.

The next General Membership Meeting will be held in November 2018. A reminder card will be sent in the mail with all the information about 10 days to 2 weeks before the meeting.

This will be our last general meeting for 2018.

Reminder: Flu season is here, and all our members are strongly encouraged to receive the yearly flu vaccination. Flu strains change, and the influenza vaccine is updated each year. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) recommends getting a flu vaccine as soon as the vaccine becomes available. Your body begins to develop antibodies as soon as you are vaccinated, and it takes approximately 2 weeks to fully protect you. The myth that you can get the flu from getting the flu shot is just that a myth. The viruses in the flu vaccine are inactivated, so you cannot get the flu from the shot.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has once again teamed up with Walgreens Pharmacies nationwide to allow all veterans who are currently enrolled in the VA healthcare system to be able to walk/roll into any of the over 8000 Walgreens nationally to receive a vaccination at no cost. Veterans wishing to receive the no cost vaccination simply need to present a Veterans Identification Card and a photo ID, at any participating Walgreens information securely to VA where it becomes part of the patient’s electronic medical record.

So, roll up your sleeve and protect yourself. It couldn’t be easier and it’s the smart thing to do.

SPECIAL NOTICE: If you are a volunteer VHA Directive 1192 requires you to get the influenza vaccination. Protect yourself as well as those you are working to help.

SCAM ALERT: The Attorney General’s office is warning potential donors of a scam involving the “Help the Vets” organization, who have operated under other names including American Disabled Veterans Foundation and Military Families of America. This group has been accused of using less than five percent of the $11 million in donations collected from Ohio and other states between 2013 and 2016 on charitable programs.

As always, your concerns, issues, or ideas of how we can make our chapter better are always welcome. Please either contact the chapter office, stop by the VA chapter office on the 6th floor or email me at carlh@buckeyepva.org.

by Carl Harris
BPVA President
And what a summer it was

And what a summer it was!!!! The Buckeye Chapter was as HOT as the temperature.

In June, we held our Buckeye Billiards tournament. So much competition and fun. If you haven’t attended in the past, make plans for June 14-15, 2019. This is a non-sanctioned event so just come and play.

The Buckeye team sent 65 athletes to the National Veterans’ Wheelchair Games. The largest team to participate. You can read all about it in the Sports Report.

Our Annual Golf Outing, a fundraiser for the Chapter, proved to be successful. The biggest drawback was the weather. Temperature drifted into the 90’s and humidity felt like 150%. We went through more water than soda. Really unusual. Thanks to Scott Law for delivering hot dogs and beverages around the course. Holly Koester was our photographer. You can see pictures later in this publication. Great job as always Holly.

Our greeters, Milton Young, Curt Fatyol and Dwayne Ezell made sure everyone had a great time. Of course, I can’t say enough Thank You’s to our team of volunteers: Robin Baker, Renee Young, Brenda Fatyol and Jeanette Ezell for all their hard work. If you haven’t met Ava Troha, our Administrative Assistant, you should know that if not for Ava, there wouldn’t be any prizes Thanks, Ava. Great job.

Special thanks to all our sponsors. As always, Preston Superstore provided golfers with the opportunity to win a Camaro Convertible. Unfortunately, no one shot that hole in one.

For the second year in a row K.C. Koester and her firm Koester, DiSalvo and Fried served as our presenting sponsor. We are so very grateful for K.C.’s support.

Can’t wait for next year! Watch your mail for a Save the Date.

I’m here if I can be of any help. Just call the office at 216-731-1017 or email sharonm@buckeyepva.org.

Enjoy the colors of the season.

Sharon
We Proudly Support the
Paralyzed Veterans of America
BUCKEYE CHAPTER

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ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & AIR PISTOL PROGRAM

Cal-Diego Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament
January 28-29, 2019
San Diego, CA

Mid-Atlantic Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament
March 6-7, 2019
Richmond, VA

Wisconsin Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament
March 30-31, 2019
Milwaukee, WI

New England Combined Air Rifle and Bocce Tournament*
April 26-28, 2019
Brockton, MA

Buckeye Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament
April 26-27, 2019
Geneva, OH

*Indicates combined events

PARALYZED VETERANS BOATING/FISHING TOUR

Mid-America Bass Tournament
September 21-23, 2018
Eufaula, OK

Vaughan Bass Tournament
October 5-7, 2018
Wilmington, IL

Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament
March 29-31, 2019
Tavares, FL

Kentucky-Indiana Bass Tournament
May 3-5, 2019
Kuttawa, KY

Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament
June 7-9, 2019
Henrico, VA

ANNUAL PVA/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament Battle at the Beach
September 14-16, 2018
Virginia Beach, VA

Mid-South Billiards Tournament
October 12-13, 2018
Memphis, TN

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament Chuck Willis Mem
March 22-24, 2019
Midlothian, VA

Mid-America Billiards Tournament
April 5-7, 2019
Oklahoma City, OK

Buckeye Billiards Tournament
June 14-15, 2019
Wickliffe, OH

Mountain States Billiards Tournament
June 21-22, 2019
Fountain, CO

BOCCIA

Mid-Atlantic Bocce Tournament
October 5-6, 2018
Richmond, VA

Gateway Bocce Tournament
October 18-20, 2018
St. Louis, MO

Bayou Bocce Tournament
November 30-December 1, 2018
Biloxi, MS

Cal-Diego Bocce Tournament
February 19-20, 2019
San Diego, CA

Arizona Bocce Tournament
April 6-7, 2019
Phoenix, AZ

New England Combined Air Rifle and Bocce Tournament
April 26-28, 2019
Brockton, MA

ANNUAL PVA/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

Great Plains Bowling Tournament
July 12-15, 2018
Council Bluffs, IA

Mountain States Bowling Tournament
August 15-18, 2018
Colorado Springs, CO

Mid-Atlantic Bowling Tournament
September 28-30, 2018
Glen Allen, VA

Nevada Bowling Tournament
November 29-Dec 2, 2018
Las Vegas, NV

Florida Gulf Coast Bowling Tournament
February 21-24, 2019
Tampa, FL

Mid-America Bowling Tournament
April 12-14, 2019
Shawnee, OK

Vaughan Bowling Tournament
June 27-30, 2019
Romineville, IL

HANDCYCLING RACING

Museum of Aviation Marathon
January 12, 2019
Warner Robins, GA

PVA Racing High Performance Camp
January 26-February 1, 2019
Brooksville, FL

Top End Euro-American HC Championships
February 2-3, 2019
Gainesville, FL

Valley of the Sun
February 16-18, 2019
Phoenix, AZ

One City Marathon
March 2, 2019
Newport News, VA

Off-Road Spring Expo
April 19-21, 2019
Chesterfield, VA

PVA Learn to Race Camp
April 23-26, 2019
Gettysburg, PA

Blue and Gray Half Marathon and Criterium
April 27-28, 2019
Gettysburg, PA

NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

For more information, visit: pva.org/sports
As always the entire Buckeye Wheelchair Team did well at the 2018 National Veteran Wheelchair Games. We want to congratulate the 11 novices on the Buckeye Wheelchair Team attending the National Veteran Wheelchair Games in Orlando this year: Samuel Johnson, Emmet Pyle, Ben Gochett, Jeremy Garber, Tom Walton, Edna Byrd, Robert Morris, Ron Scarberry, Mark Fox, Richard Chavers, and Sedric Watkins. All the coaches and nurses were continuing to admire and be impressed by the novices’ tenacity in competing and determination to learn and compete. We all hope the friendships made will continue to grow year after year.

The Buckeye Team started out the week parading into opening ceremonies with a never ending column of blue shirted athletes as Ohio had one of the largest teams; 65 athletes. 14 coaches and nurses. The Buckeyes’ hope of competing as one of 13 teams that entered the Team Challenge, first time event, were threatened when one of our members got injured. Many thanks to Paul Mann, Dayton, who graciously stepped up after competing in two quad rugby games that day, agreed to push the 200 meters for us. The rest of the competition consisted of 200 m swim by Holly Koester, weightlifting by Sedric Watkins, (number of lifts could reduce time up to 3 minutes), followed by 5 K hand cycle by PJ Leek, and then the 200 m push by Paul. Buckeyes respectfully finished 7 out of 9 teams. Not bad just to produce a team, we are leaving room for improvement next year.

The slalom courses always leave the cheering crowd breathless and hoarse as we proudly cheered on Jennifer Steele, Tommy Durbin, Sam Johnson, Josh Maley, Levar Davenport, Phil Kearney, Edna Byrd, Terry Rock and Bill Searles. Congrats to all, just to finish those courses is a feat in itself. Terry Rock went on to compete and come in 2nd in the Super G. No less challenging is the motorized slalom completed by Robert Morris, Ron Scarberry, Milton Young, Brett Clingan, Sylvester Cooper, Robert Burtin, David North, James Renzi, Edward Davis, and Clarence Belle. Never ceasing to amaze are the skills of Robert Thomas, Patrick Harris and Milton Young on the power soccer teams as RT’s team brought home the Gold. We had Edna Byrd on the Gold medal softball team and Josh Maley, Eddie Keating, Terry Rock and David Belak on the silver medalist stand Brett Clingan on the bronze softball team. Austin Trzop’s first year playing quad rugby netted him and Paul Mann a Gold medal in quad rugby. Buckeyes also shined outside the competition as Bobby Click quickly and expertly assisted with providing help and CPR to a veteran that was struggling in the hotel pool. Nice save Bobby.

On a lighter note, Curtis Faytol and Brenda were doing hotel security as they went up to their room on the 2nd day at the games. They had family in the room and the TV was pretty loud so messing around they banged on the door and yelled “POLICE”. They heard the TV go silent and toilet flushing continuously. Brenda swiped the card and the door wouldn’t open. She checked the room number and says “Oops Curtis, this isn’t our room. We are on the wrong floor”. So hotel security can rest well, that’s one room that won’t blast its TV. My thanks to Scott Law who before playing in the Medal round basketball game helped the coaches with a major management issue. Scott’s team won the silver medal in basketball.

As always we know that the Buckeye Team is blessed with a caring and dedicated coaching and nursing staff that helped carry equipment, pushed us when we needed a hand, helped us into and out of our equipment and those super high hotel beds, fixing flats, answering questions, correcting errors and being the Veteran’s valuable cheering squad. Thank you all for your hard work. We know we could not do as well without your help. Final Medal count is Gold 45, Silver 36 and Bronze. 27; 108 total. I got a text saying our equipment is back. I feel like I’ve rested up from one long fun filled week of competition ready to recharge and excited for Louisville, KY next year.

Hey team - If you would like to have input as to our colors and uniform for next year please email me or Scott. We are interested in your preferences - hoodie, jacket, ¼ zip, and color for BWG and NVWG. If you don’t help you get what we pick.
Mileage Reimbursement

Paralyzed Veterans of America Buckeye Chapter Visitor Mileage Reimbursement Program

Who is eligible to participate in the program?
Must be a BPVA Member in good standing for a minimum of 90 days to participate. The Committee has the option to make exceptions for extenuating circumstances.

What is the acceptable time period before the program becomes available for use?
The BPVA Member must be hospitalized for a minimum of one week.

What is the acceptable distance for mileage reimbursement?
The mileage reimbursement will be given to visitors for travel to a VA hospital in the State of Ohio for the wellbeing of members who are hospitalized. Beginning and ending travel must be in the State of Ohio.

How much is the reimbursement?
Reimbursement will be at a rate of .20 per mile. Mileage will be determined via MapQuest based on the submission of the visitor of the beginning and ending address. Chapter will reimburse up to 2 trips per month with a $2,000 cap per year.

Reimbursement request containing the name of the member, name and address of the visitor, the date of visitation and the origin of the trip must be submitted by the 20th of the following month, with payment at the end of month. Request for reimbursement will only be valid for one calendar month following travel.

How will reimbursement be paid?
Reimbursements will be via check.

What locations are included in the program?
Reimbursement will be for Ohio VA hospitals only.

For more information contact the Chapter Office at 800-248-2548.
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Independent Sports Program Review

by Paul Mann

I recently went to the Oscar Mike Militia Tournament in Rockford, Illinois.

Not only did I attend a clinic on Friday, I got to meet four of the crew from the T.V. show Orange County Choppers. They were there for ideas about Oscar Mike because they are building a bike for Oscar Mike to raffle off.

Thank you for this program which allows me and other Veterans to be “on the move”.

Emergency Assistance Program

Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter has available an Emergency Assistance Program. This program helps members of the Buckeye Chapter who may find themselves in financial distress causing possible eviction from their homes, disconnection of utilities or the inability to pay for food.

Members must be in good standing for a minimum of 90 days prior to qualifying for consideration. Application for help is limited to twice yearly or up to a maximum of $500 per year. This is a confidential process. Payments must be made directly to the vendor.

Please contact the Chapter office for more details. (800) 248-2548; (216) 731-1017.

It’s Time to Clean & Help a Worthwhile Cause!

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter is committed to making life better for veterans affected by spinal cord injury or disease. Through our efforts we have been able to make a positive impact on the lives of veterans in our community. Your financial support can help us make a significant difference in the lives of veterans. To show our appreciation, with each $50.00 donation we will send you a package of high-quality trash bags.

Sizes available: 16, 33, 40, and 60 gallon.

To make a donation, you may call, mail a check or use our online form.

Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter
26250 Euclid Ave, Suite 115, Euclid, Ohio 44132
Phone: (216) 731-1017 or (800) 248-2548
www.buckeyepva.org
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PVA FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST DOT IN RESPONSE TO DELAYS IN PUBLISHING A RULE ON LAVATORY ACCESS

On July 31st, PVA, along with PVA National Treasurer Tom Wheaton, filed a lawsuit against the Department of Transportation (DOT) for its delay in issuing a proposed rule that would improve the accessibility of aircraft lavatories for passengers with disabilities. In 2016, PVA worked with Congress to ensure inclusion of a requirement in a 2016 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) extension bill for DOT to issue a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking on this and other Air Carrier Access Act issues by July 2017. DOT missed this deadline. Furthermore, DOT has taken little action to date to move forward with this important rule.

There is a heightened need for DOT to move forward with this rule because of the agreement reached by the ACCESS Committee during the 2016 negotiated rulemaking on this and two other issues. That agreement provides, in the long-term, for accessible lavatories. PVA is concerned that if DOT continues to stall in publishing a proposed rule, which is to be based on that agreement, that all of the forward momentum gained during the negotiated rulemaking will be lost.

PVA’s suit was filed in the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals by Democracy Forward. Democracy Forward also represents PVA in our ongoing suit against the rollback of a rule requiring domestic airlines to track and report data on lost and damaged wheelchairs and scooters. That case is set for a hearing on September 7th, in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

SENATOR CASEY INTRODUCES DISABILITY LEGISLATION

On the eve of the 28th anniversary of the ADA, Senator Robert Casey (D-PA) introduced S. 2360, the Disability Employment Incentives Act (DEIA) and S. 3261, the Office of Disability Policy Act.

The DEIA is designed to encourage employers to hire and retain employees with disabilities by enhancing three existing tax credits to support employers who hire individuals with disabilities and make workplaces more accessible to those employees. It would do so by extending coverage of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) for hires of persons receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and raise the amount of the salary considered for credit from $6,000 to $12,500, raising the maximum available tax credit from $2,400 to $5,000.

The DEIA also provides a tax credit for any business that retains an employee for a second year of employment and permits the business to take a credit on 20 percent of the employee's salary up to $12,500, which is a $2,500 credit. The measure also makes long overdue improvements in the Disability Access Expenditures Tax Credit that is available to small businesses with gross receipts of less than $3 million annually or with no more than 60 full-time employees. The maximum tax credit will be raised from $5,000 to $10,000. In addition, S. 2360 improves the Architectural and Transportation Barrier Tax deduction by increasing to $30,000 the amount that can be deducted by a business for expenses incurred in removing existing physical barriers in qualified facilities or in transportation vehicles. Businesses will also be able to take the deduction for expenses for making their telecommunications and on-line business operations accessible. The credit and tax deduction may not be used for new structures, only for existing structures where the expenses are used to create accessible spaces to the standards of the U.S. Access Board.

S. 3261 would establish within the General Accountability Office an Office on Disability Policy to provide analyses of how proposed federal legislation, proposed regulations and proposed guidance will affect individuals with disabilities, their families, and those who support individuals with disabilities by providing services. The Office will conduct reviews, upon the request of members of Congress, and produce an annual report on the bills and regulations enacted and considered that will affect the disability community.

In remarks introducing the DEIA, Sen. Casey said, "We need more people with disabilities in competitive integrated employment to strengthen our economy and to enhance the capacity of our businesses. As a nation, our duty now is to take the actions that protect and enhance the rights of all Americans, including those with disabilities, and make equality for all a reality." Explaining the need for the Office of Disability Policy, the Senator noted the recent attacks on laws vital to people with disabilities, such as H.R. 620, the ADA Education and Notification Act, show why "non-partisan information about
the proposals that could harm people with disabilities and the infrastructure that makes it possible for them to participate in our society” is so important.

**PVA attends the 2018 TSA Disability and Multicultural Coalition Conference**

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) hosted its 16th annual disability and multicultural coalition conference in Arlington, Virginia, on August 7th. The keynote speaker was David Pekoske, Administrator for TSA. Mr. Pekoske said that the 60,000 employees of the TSA are dedicated to ensuring the safety and security of our nation’s airports and the flying public. Over two million people are screened everyday by TSA officers before boarding a flight to their destination. TSA is in the process of rolling out new screening technology that will allow agents to see better what is in passengers’ carry-on luggage. This will result in quicker processing through the security line and fewer invasive inspections of luggage.

TSA has several programs to assist passengers with disabilities to streamline the process of going through security. First, TSA Cares allows a passenger with a disability, medical condition, or any other special circumstance to contact a hotline, (855) 787-2227, weekdays 8AM – 11PM or weekends 9AM-11PM, as early as 72 hours prior to travel to receive answers to questions about screening policies, procedures, and what to expect at the security check point. TSA Cares can also arrange assistance for passengers with medical conditions as well as injured service members, veterans, and wounded warriors.

TSA Pre-check is a smarter travel experience with fewer hassles and less stress. TSA Pre-check is an expedited security screening program that connects travelers departing from within the United States with smarter security and a better air travel experience for a cost of $85 for a five year membership. Using a risk-based, intelligence driven approach to pre-screen travelers, TSA Pre-check delivers the most effective and efficient security experience for the passenger. For eligible passengers, they will pass through a dedicated security line, where they will no longer need to remove their shoes, belts, light jackets, liquids, or laptops. Once approved, a passenger will receive a Known Traveler Number (KTN) which can be entered into the reservation process to ensure the Pre-check benefit is listed on the passenger’s ticket / boarding pass. Passengers with disabilities may also be Pre-check approved, which will expedite the screening and alleviate the “pat down” process.

Administrator Pekoske encouraged participation in the Pre-check program and TSA Cares saying that they were ready to assist passengers with disabilities to ensure a seamless travel experience.

**PVA Provides Guidance to VA on Health Care Access Standards**

On July 13th, Heather Ansley, Acting Associate Executive Director of Government Relations, presented PVA’s views at a public meeting in Arlington, Virginia, regarding VA’s requirement to establish access standards that will assist them in designing a network of providers for the new Veterans Community Care Program. PVA was one of two VSOs that presented views at the meeting to VA community care officials.

Ms. Ansley’s oral comments reflected the need to ensure that VA designs a system that meets the clinical needs of veterans and that allows for the decision between a physician and veteran to be the most important determining factor for accessing outside care. In the event an SCI/D veteran is referred to the community, Ms. Ansley stated that the veteran’s primary care physician must be alerted to the referral. She also expressed that any community providers selected to provide care to veterans must have facilities and equipment that are accessible and appropriate for patients with disabilities.

In addition to accepting comments at the public meeting, VA also requested stakeholders to submit written comments. PVA’s submitted comments reflected our oral comments from the public meeting. To view PVA’s written comments, please visit: [https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=VA-2018-VACO-0001-157](https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=VA-2018-VACO-0001-157).

**PVA Participates in House Veterans’ Affairs Committee Roundtable on Prosthetics**

On July 25th, PVA participated in a roundtable hosted by House Veterans’ Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Health Chairman Dr. Neal Dunn and Ranking Member Julia Brownley. The focus of the roundtable was current practices and future trends of VA prosthetics care. Fred Downs, PVA’s Prosthetics Consultant, and Heather Ansley, Acting Associate Executive Director of Government Relations, represented PVA at the event. Although the focus of the roundtable was on prosthetic limbs and orthotics, the event opened the door to sharing information about our concerns with the status of the VA’s Automobile Adaptive Equipment (AAE) program and VA’s Prosthetics Service in general. PVA will be further exploring our concerns with the comm
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As mentioned, you can be eligible for more than one Clothing Allowance. This could be one for each garment, for example: a wheelchair that causes irreparable damage to your pants; and rigid wrist braces damage your shirts. This could also be two Clothing Allowance awards for the same garment, for example: A rigid leg brace that causes damage to your pants as well as a prescribed ointment for a skin condition on your legs that stains the pants. The philosophy is that together, these two wear out the garment faster than one alone.

If you were receiving a clothing allowance prior to 2012, you could be receiving it annually without reapplying. If this is the case, you are grandfathered in to recurring status. Multiple clothing allowances are not authorized prior to the 2012. You will remain receiving your recurring allowance until you apply for an additional clothing allowance benefit. At that time, you permanently lose recurring payments and must apply every year.

An annual re-evaluation of the Veterans prosthetic, orthopedic appliance or skin medication is recommended by VHA Handbook 1173.15. The VA must have evidence that the item or medication is still prescribed and used. This may necessitate an appointment with your provider for evaluation to support your claim for Clothing Allowance. Clothing allowances are paid once a year in lump sum. You must establish entitlement prior to August 1st (also called the anniversary date), to be paid for that year. For example, if you are prescribed a prosthetic item or appliance in 2018 for a service connected disability, you must submit your application by July 31, 2018 to receive the 2018 Clothing Allowance benefits. If you have any questions or need assistance applying, please contact your local PVA National Service Officer.

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