

## **FAQs: Expansion of In Vitro Fertilization at VA**

### **What fertility services does VA offer?**

For many Veterans, having children is an important and essential aspect of life and well-being – and VA is committed to supporting these Veterans in their efforts to have families.

VA covers fertility evaluation and select treatment including fertility assessments and counseling, lab tests, ultrasounds, X-rays, surgical correction (for example, to treat endometriosis, polyps, blockages, or scars), fertility medications, artificial insemination, and genetic counseling and testing.

VA reproductive health services also include maternity care, gynecology care, the full range of FDA approved contraceptive methods, cervical cancer screening, menopause care, and life-saving treatment related to pregnancy, such as medically necessary care for Veterans presenting with ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage.

Additionally, VA covers assisted reproductive technologies (ART), including in vitro fertilization (IVF) for certain Veterans and their spouses if the Veteran has a service-connected disability that results in the inability to procreate without the use of fertility treatment.

### **Who is eligible for reproductive health care at VA?**

All enrolled Veterans are eligible for most reproductive health and fertility services at VA, including fertility evaluation, management, and select treatment for fertility conditions. More information can be found [here](#).

Additionally, as noted above, certain Veterans and their spouses may be eligible for IVF if the Veteran has a service-connected disability that results in the inability to procreate without the use of fertility treatment.

### **Who is newly eligible for in vitro fertilization at VA?**

Under existing law, all Veterans who receive IVF from VA must be unable to procreate without the use of fertility treatment due to a health condition caused by their military service. Before today's expansion of care, VA was only allowed to provide IVF services to Veterans who were legally married and – within that relationship – able to produce their own gametes (both eggs and sperm). Under this expansion of care, VA will offer IVF benefits to qualifying Veterans regardless of marital status and – for the first time – allow the use of donor eggs, sperm, and embryos.

This means that VA will soon be able to provide in vitro fertilization (IVF) to eligible unmarried Veterans and eligible Veterans in same-sex marriages. VA will also be able to provide IVF to Veterans using donated sperm or eggs – a critical step toward helping Veterans who are not able to produce their own sperm or eggs due to service-connected injuries and health conditions.

### **When will the services become available?**

VA is taking immediate steps to implement this policy and expects to be ready to deliver this care to Veterans nationwide in the coming weeks.

### **How does VA offer IVF services?**

VA clinicians refer Veterans to specialized fertility care, which is then provided by authorized health care professionals in the community.

**Will VA services be impacted by local laws limiting IVF?**

VA will continue to make sure that eligible Veterans have access to in-vitro fertilization and other reproductive health care, regardless of where they live.

**Can VA cover adoption expenses?**

Yes. Veterans who have a service-connected disability that causes infertility may receive reimbursement payment to cover qualifying expenses for the adoption of a child under 18 years of age. Both married and single covered Veterans are eligible to receive reimbursement for qualifying adoption expenses. If you are a Veteran with a service-connected disability that makes it impossible for you to have children without medical help, you are considered a "covered Veteran." More information can be found [here](#).

**Can VA cover surrogacy?**

Under current law, VA cannot cover surrogacy for any Veteran.

**If VA cannot cover surrogacy, does this expansion have an impact on male Veterans in same-sex couples?**

While VA cannot cover surrogacy for any Veteran, male Veterans in same-sex couples would now – for the first time – be able to use a donated egg to create a fertilized embryo using IVF. This is a critical part of the process for having a child that VA could now cover for these Veterans.

**Why can VA make this change now?**

By law, VA's policy must adhere to the Department of Defense's. DoD updated its policy, permitting VA to offer this expansion in coverage.