

Use VA Medical Benefits to Meet the CMU Health Insurance Requirement

Apply for VA Medical Benefits

If you have not already applied for VA Health Care Benefits, you should start as soon as possible. You can apply online, by mail, over the phone, or in person at a VA Medical Center.

Regardless of how you apply, you'll need the following to complete the application:

- Social Security number (required)
- Copy of your military discharge papers (DD214 or other separation documents)
- Financial information—and your dependents' financial information
- Your most recent tax return
- Account numbers for any health insurance you currently have (such as Medicare, private insurance, or insurance from an employer)

For full details on how to apply, go to <https://www.vets.gov/health-care/apply/>.

Once you have been approved for VA Medical Benefits, you will receive a packet in the mail from your regional VA benefits office with the details of your medical benefits status.

At this point, you will need to visit a VA Medical Center to obtain your Veteran Health Identification Card. Be sure to take the packet you received in the mail and two forms of government-issued ID. **You will need your Member ID and Plan ID in order to complete the CMU Health Insurance Waiver.**



Establish Primary Care in Pittsburgh

To ensure you'll be able to receive quick care while attending CMU, be sure to schedule an initial appointment at the Pittsburgh VA Medical Center (University Drive location). **General appointments often need to be made up to two months in advance, so request an appointment as early as possible.** Contact information can be found at <https://www.pittsburgh.va.gov/>.

Your initial appointment will include establishing a primary care physician and support team and a general physical.

Apply for a CMU Health Insurance Waiver

To use your VA Medical Benefits in lieu of University insurance, you will need to complete a waiver within the open-enrollment period. Full details on the waiver process, including deadlines, log onto the SIO portal (<https://s3.andrew.cmu.edu/sio/>) and navigate to **Campus Life > Health Insurance**.

You will need to complete a brief questionnaire regarding your health care coverage; you'll need to provide your VA Health Care Member ID, Plan ID, and the name of your VA primary care physician.

Waivers must be renewed for each academic year.

Questions can be directed to the Heinz Veterans Association at HeinzVeterans@andrew.cmu.edu.