



What are the benefits of the VA Retail Immunization Care Coordination Program?

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The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is excited about how the convenience of immunizations from retail providers such as Rite Aid, Walgreens, and CVS combined with integrated health records can improve immunization rates and expand access for Veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system. When a Veteran receives a flu vaccine at a participating retail provider, an immunization record is automatically transmitted to VA and becomes part of the patient's VA health record without having to complete any VA forms. VA patients can view this information on their [My HealthVet Blue Button download](#). For patients, the option of receiving immunizations at retail providers offers more convenience and choice to get important vaccines. Vaccines are subject to availability. State, age- and health-related restrictions may apply.

Is there a charge for a flu shot at Walgreens?

VA is funding approximately 75,000 no-cost flu vaccinations for Veterans enrolled in VA health care system. These no-cost flu shots are available nationwide until the funding expires. Veterans simply need to notify a pharmacist at a participating Walgreens that they are an enrolled Veteran in the VA health care system and show his or her VA ID card along with a federal or state photo ID. Walgreens also accepts most insurance plans depending on eligibility. Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), health plans are required to provide flu shots without charging a deductible, copayment, or coinsurance. After the funding is depleted, there may be a cost for a flu shot for Veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system and who do not have insurance coverage.

What VA funded flu vaccinations are available to enrolled Veterans?

VA medical centers and clinics will continue to provide **free** flu shots during any scheduled VA appointment or at one of the walk-in flu stations. To learn more, Veteran patients should contact their local VA medical center. VA is also providing a limited availability of no-cost flu vaccinations for any enrolled Veteran via the VA-Walgreens partnership. Based upon the types of flu vaccination administered, VA estimates that there is funding for approximately 75,000 no cost flu vaccinations for this program.

Are all Walgreens stores participating?

All Walgreens locations will be participating in the continental United States, Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico. Walgreens locations can be found at:

<http://www.walgreens.com/storelocator/find.jsp> or alternatively you can search by state at:

<http://www.walgreens.com/storelistings/storesbystate.jsp?requestType=locator>

What does a Veteran need to do to use Walgreens for their immunizations?

Simply let the Walgreens pharmacist know that you are Veteran enrolled in the VA health care system and show the VA ID card. That's it. VA will automatically get information about the patient's immunizations from Walgreens.

How long will it take for a Veteran's immunization information to become part of their health record?

Immunization records will be available to VA clinicians within 24 hours of a patient receiving a vaccination. Some delays may occur.

When does the program start?

The program started in early September in time for the 2014 flu season.

Are other retail pharmacies part of this program?

At this time, Walgreens is the first partner of the VA Retail Immunization Care Coordination Program. VA will announce additional partners as they become available.

Where can Veterans get additional information about the program?

This national immunization initiative is designed to provide Veterans more options, easier access, and seamless records. Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.ehealth.va.gov/Immunization.asp>