Abortion Services Frequently Asked Questions

i. **What reproductive health services does VA offer Veterans and eligible beneficiaries?**

VA reproductive health services include fertility services, contraceptives, emergency contraceptives, menopause care and life-saving treatment related to pregnancy, such as medically necessary care for Veterans presenting with ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage. VA can also offer abortion counseling and can perform abortions when the life or health of the pregnant Veteran would be endangered if the pregnancy were carried to term or when the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest. VA beneficiaries enrolled in CHAMPVA also have access to this care.

In addition, service-connected Veterans and their spouses who meet specific eligibility criteria are able to receive in-vitro fertilization.

You can find more information about all of VA's reproductive health offerings at VA.gov/ReproductiveHealth, and Women Veterans can call or text the Women Veterans Call Center at 855-829-6636.

ii. **What abortion services does VA offer for Veterans?**

VA is able to offer abortion counseling. Abortion counseling is provided by VA health care professionals, and it is tailored to your unique needs and situation. Abortion counseling is part of pregnancy counseling and can include information about pregnancy options, including abortion.

VA is also able to provide access to abortions when the life or the health of the pregnant Veteran would be endangered if the pregnancy were carried to term, or when the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest. VA beneficiaries enrolled in CHAMPVA also have access to this care.

iii. **How do I know if I qualify for an abortion at VA as a Veteran?**

If you are already enrolled in VA health care, you should reach out to your VA primary care provider to determine whether an abortion is clinically appropriate for you and available to you. Your primary care provider can also refer you to the full suite of VA reproductive health care offerings.

If you are not enrolled, you should begin by learning more about whether you are eligible for VA care. To find out if you are eligible to enroll, visit https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility. To apply online or by mail, go to https://www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply.

iv. **How will VA determine whether an individual Veteran is eligible for an abortion?**

All care provided by VA is premised on a determination by an appropriate health care professional that it is needed to promote, preserve or restore the health of the Veteran and accords with generally accepted standards of medical practice.

The determination of whether the "life and health of the pregnant Veteran would be endangered if the pregnancy were carried to term" is made on a case-by-case basis, and is the result of careful consultation between VA health care providers and the Veterans they serve.

In cases of rape or incest, self-reporting from a Veteran or VA beneficiary constitutes sufficient evidence that an act of rape or incest occurred.

v. **Will VA be able to offer these services in states that have banned abortion?**

Yes, VA can immediately provide abortion services to protect the life and health of our Veterans. Now that the Interim Final Rule is published, VA is preparing to provide these services in as many locations as possible.

VA is taking steps to guarantee Veterans and other VA beneficiaries abortion-related care anywhere in the country. VA employees, when working within the scope of their Federal employment, may provide authorized services regardless of state restrictions.

For more information about abortion counseling and services at VA, visit VA.gov/ReproductiveHealth and click on Abortion Services.

vi. **Will VA pay for abortion services in the community?**

Yes. If authorized under VA's Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP), VA will pay for abortion counseling from providers in the community, where available. In addition, if authorized under VCCP, VA will pay for abortions from providers in the community, where available, in cases where the life or health of the Veteran is endangered if the pregnancy were carried to term, or in the case of pregnancy resulting from an act of rape or incest.

vii. **How do I enroll in VA health care?**

Everyone's situation is unique and so is their eligibility. To find out if you are eligible to enroll, visit https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility. To apply online or by mail go to https://www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply. To apply in person, visit the nearest VA medical center or clinic. You can locate your nearest VA health facility at https://www.va.gov/find-locations. You can also call 1-877-222-8387 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. ET.

You may also contact the Veterans Benefits Administration 1-800-827-1000 www.vba.va.gov.