



GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



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VI Office of Veterans Affairs Policy Letter #3

Subject: Medical Travel **Reimbursements**

Travel within VA Caribbean Healthcare Network

Virgin Islands Veterans traveling to the closest VA medical facility for medical appointments are eligible for 100% **reimbursement** of flight arrangements. These Veterans must meet the following criteria:

- Appointments must be verified in writing by the local VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC). The appointment slip must be presented to the VI Office of Veterans Affairs upon their return.
- Appointment must be initiated by the CBOC **or** authorized by the State Director of the V.I. Office of Veterans Affairs on an emergency basis before travel
- Appointment must be a non-service-connected appointment
- Flight arrangements for one member of the veteran's family members or otherwise can be reimbursed **IF** the attending physician states the need for an attendant in writing.

NOTE: All Veterans seventy (70) years of age or older are authorized to be reimbursed for a travel companion whether the CBOC states so in writing or not. The purpose of the companion must be to assist the Veteran as they travel.

Travel outside of the VA Caribbean Healthcare Network

Virgin Islands Veterans traveling outside of the VA Caribbean Healthcare Network are authorized to be reimbursed by the Office of Veterans Affairs at a rate of no more than \$250 under the following circumstances:

- Veteran must be no more than 40% service-connected
- **Proof of disability rating (service-connection) must be submitted on an annual basis**
- Veteran must be getting care at a VA Hospital or VA Medical Center (being seen at a CBOC does not qualify)
- Reimbursement for travel must be approved by the State Director of the V.I. Office of Veterans Affairs before travel is initiated. This will also include verification of appointment at VA Medical Facility.
- Only the Director of Veterans Affairs can approve reimbursement for travel outside of the VA Caribbean Healthcare Network.
- Travel attendants are not authorized for reimbursement
- Authorization will be based on availability of funds.

FOR Official Use

This policy is effective as of the date on this letter and remains in effect unless changed or rescinded by the current Director of the Virgin Islands Office of Veterans Affairs.