

**ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Indianapolis, Indiana
August 27, 28, 29, 2019**

Resolution No. 17: Department Of Veterans Affairs Provide Dental Care For Veterans With A Complicating Medical Condition

Origin: Minnesota

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, 38 C.F.R. 17.38 states medical need is a treatment, procedure, supply, or service considered medically necessary when, in the judgment of an appropriate clinical care provider, and in accordance with generally-accepted standards of clinical practices, the treatment, procedure, supply, or service:

- (1) Promotes health by:
 - (a) Enhancing quality of life or daily functional level;
 - (b) Identifying a predisposition for development of a condition or early onset of disease, which can be partly or totally improved by monitoring or early diagnosis and treatment; and
 - (c) Preventing development of future disease,
- (2) Preserves health by:
 - (a) Maintaining the current quality of life or daily functional level;
 - (b) Preventing progression of disease;
 - (c) Curing disease; and
 - (d) Extending life span,
- (3) Restores health by restoring the quality of life or the daily functional level that has been lost due to illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, 38 C.F.R. 17.38 states dental care for eligible veterans must be provided in a manner consistent with the following core values: timely access, quality outcomes, cost effectiveness, evidence-based care, patient and provider satisfaction, and patient safety; and

WHEREAS, 38 CFR 17.160-17.166 also states the goal of VA Dental Services is to provide high quality, cost-effective and evidence-based dental treatment to eligible veterans; and

WHEREAS, All VA dentists are to be knowledgeable regarding the scope of care to be provided under each dental classification; and

WHEREAS, 38 CFR 17.160-17.166 further states eligibility for dental care under Class VI (medical need) is under the authority of the VA Dental Chief to make eligibility determination; and

WHEREAS, VA established an Outpatient Dental Program, which is categorized into classifications; and Class VI was created to provide dental services to a veteran that is receiving care and requires dental care for a condition complicating a medical condition currently under treatment; and

WHEREAS, The following list identifies the patient categories that are to be provided dental care in compliance with applicable VA regulations and directives: Inpatients with a compelling medical need, such as a defined dental condition which has a significant negative impact on the medical management of the patient, regardless of service connection; veteran for whom outpatient dental care is reasonably necessary to complete dental care that was initiated while they were inpatients; outpatient Dental Class I through VI beneficiaries; and individuals with dental emergencies who are provided outpatient dental care on a humanitarian basis; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 27, 28, 29, 2019, That if a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) dentist removes a veteran's teeth under Classification VI (Medical Need) that the VA is required to provide dentures in accordance with its medical benefits package promoting health, enhancing quality of life and daily function.