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bulletin

National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
1608 K Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006
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## Extension of one-time outpatient dental care

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has published a final rule in the Federal Register amending its regulations regarding the authority to provide one-time outpatient dental treatment following discharge or release from active duty. This rule, effective October 8, 2008, amends 38 C.F.R. 17.161 (b) and is necessary to conform to section 1709 of Public Law 110-181, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008. Section 1709 amended 38 U.S.C. 1712 (a) (1) (B) (iii) concerning the period after discharge or release from active duty that a veteran may apply for VA's one-time dental benefit.

Under the former law, veterans had to apply within 90 days after such discharge or release. Under amended section 1712, veterans may apply for the benefit within 180 days after leaving active duty. Congress also amended section 1712 to prescribe the 180-day application period for veterans who reentered active duty within 90 days after their prior discharge or release from active duty. Congress also prescribed the 180-day application period for veterans who have had a disqualifying discharge or release corrected by a competent authority.

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