November 2019

Q. Who is eligible for DoD Expanded Access MWR privileges starting on January 1, 2020?
A. Veterans who meet other than non-caregiver criteria are:
   - Purple Heart recipients
   - Former Prisoners of War (POW)
   - Veterans with 0-90% Service-Connected disability ratings
   - Medal of Honor recipients and Veterans with 100% Service-Connected disability ratings who are already eligible under existing DoD policy

Caregivers who meet the criteria are:
   - Individuals approved and designated as the primary family caregiver of an eligible Veteran under the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers beginning on January 1, 2020, will be eligible for these privileges.

For information about primary family caregivers, visit https://www.caregiver.va.gov/.

Q. Are DoD Expanded Access MWR privileges available to caregivers enrolled in the Program of General Caregiver Support Services?
A. No. Only the primary family caregiver of an eligible Veteran in VA’s Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers may use this benefit. Veterans may meet eligibility for DoD Expanded Access MWR privileges under other non-caregiver criteria.

Q. Are DoD Expanded Access MWR privileges available to secondary caregivers in the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers?
A. No. An authorized caregiver must be the individual approved and designated as the primary family caregiver of an eligible Veteran under VA’s Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. Veterans may meet eligibility for DoD Expanded Access MWR privileges under other non-caregiver criteria.

Q. What is the definition of a primary family caregiver, as mentioned above?
A. The primary family caregiver is an individual designated as “primary provider of personal care services” for the eligible Veteran who has been approved for the VA’s Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

Q. When should primary caregivers expect to receive their eligibility letters in the mail?
A. Letters for DoD Expanded Access MWR privileges will be printed and mailed in the month of December for eligible primary caregivers enrolled in the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.
Q. Are Veterans who are from eras prior to Post-9/11 eligible to apply for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers now, if they are eligible for the DoD Expanded Access MWR privileges, under other non-caregiver criteria?
A. VA is currently accepting applications for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers from Post-9/11 era Veterans only. The first phase of expansion of this program will occur when the VA Secretary has certified the new caregiver information technology system is fully implemented and final regulations are published. VA will begin expanding eligibility for this program Summer of 2020.

Q. Is the MISSION Act of 2018 and the Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018 the same thing and/or are they connected in any way?
A. No. The MISSION Act of 2018 is being implemented by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018 is a DoD program. Please see https://www.militaryonesource.mil/products#!/detail/780, for more information related to the Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018 or call 1-800-342-9647 (Toll Free 24/7).

Q. What services does VA offer for all caregivers of enrolled Veterans?
A. Caregivers are eligible for a host of VA services through the Program of General Caregiver Support Services. These services are available to caregivers of eligible Veterans of any era. The Program of General Caregiver Support Services includes training, education, respite care, a telephone support line, peer-support mentoring, self-care courses and other services. For information about the Program of General Caregiver Support Services visit https://www.caregiver.va.gov/.