

Veteran Health Checks – Frequently Asked Questions for GPs

What is the Veteran Health Check?

- The Veteran Health Check is an opportunity for veterans to gain access to a comprehensive physical and mental health assessment and establish a relationship with a civilian General Practitioner (GP).
- It is an opportunity for GPs to build an understanding of a veteran patient’s health and wellbeing and identify and address any health conditions common in the years following transition out of the Australian Defence Force (ADF).
- The aim is to encourage early intervention to promote better health outcomes for veterans during their transition to civilian life.
- DVA recommends that a 45 minute appointment is booked to conduct a Veteran Health Check.
- Depending on eligibility, there are two ways the Veteran Health Check is funded by DVA:
 - One-off Veteran Health Check (DVA Veteran Card or Medicare)
 - Annual Veteran Health Check (DVA Veteran card).
- They may request you use the Veteran Health Assessment tool available on [at-
ease.dva.gov.au/professionals](http://ease.dva.gov.au/professionals). This is the same tool available through *MedicalDirector* and *Best Practice* software.
- The One-off Veteran Health Check was formerly known as the ADF Post-Discharge GP Health Assessment. The Annual Veteran Health Check is a new initiative from 1 July 2019.

How can I check what type of Veteran Health Check a patient is eligible for?

- Your patient can gain access to an Annual Veteran Health Check every year for the first five years following transition, if they have transitioned from the ADF (either the permanent or reserve forces) from 1 July 2019 and served at least 1 days’ continuous full-time service. Your patient may have also received correspondence from DVA to inform them of their eligibility.
- All those who transitioned from the ADF can gain access to a One-off Veteran Health Check at any time. There is a specific Medicare rebate for this. This eligibility is universal, and does not depend on the date on which they transitioned from the ADF.

How do I bill or claim for the Veteran Health Check?

Annual Veteran Health Check (DVA item numbers)	One-off Veteran Health Check (MBS item numbers)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MT701 - brief health assessment, lasting no more than 30 minutes • MT703 – standard health assessment, lasting no more than 45 minutes • MT705 – long health assessment , lasting no more than 60 minutes • MT707 – prolonged health assessment, lasting more than 60 minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 701 – brief health assessment, lasting no more than 30 minutes • 703 – standard health assessment, lasting no more than 45 minutes • 705 – long health assessment , lasting no more than 60 minutes • 707 – prolonged health assessment, lasting more than 60 minutes

The Department of Human Services (DHS), Medicare (DHS-Medicare), processes claims for health providers on behalf of DVA. You can claim using a payment method that suits you.

Find out more on claiming with DVA: dva.gov.au/providers/how-claim

More information on DVA fee schedules: dva.gov.au/provider/fees-schedules

Can I charge a gap payment?

- A gap payment cannot be charged for services provided under a DVA item number. Only one of the DVA item numbers for the Annual Veteran Health Check can be used.
- Gap payments can be charged for One-off Veteran Health Check Medicare item numbers, although DVA encourages providers to bulk bill these consultations where possible.

Who should conduct the Veteran Health Check?

- The Veteran Health Check must be completed by a qualified general practitioner, however a suitably qualified health professional (e.g. practice nurse) may assist.

Is there a guideline to follow? What resources are available to me to complete the Veteran Health Check?

- DVA has developed a comprehensive Veteran Health Check tool. It is accessible as a wizard (or form) through the clinical practice software *MedicalDirector* and *Best Practice*. The form can also be downloaded from at-ease.dva.gov.au/professionals/assessment-treatment/veteran-health-check.
- In *Best Practice* and *Medical Director*, the assessment tool is currently referred to as the ADF Post-discharge Health Assessment. Please search for this in your practice software. You can use this same resource for both the One-off and Annual Veteran Health Check.
- The Veteran Health Check assessment tool and supporting resources may also be useful for when you provide other consultations or check-ups for patients who have served in the ADF.

How can I better prepare to treat veteran patients? What training and development is available?

- Veteran patients have had unique experiences and are at increased risk of developing physical and mental health conditions during and after transition to civilian life.
- DVA has many different resources available for providers such as webinars and online training programs.
- Further information on professional development and available resources can be found on at-ease.dva.gov.au/professionals/professional-development

How can I find more information about Veteran Health Checks?

- Find out more about Veteran Health Checks on at-ease.dva.gov.au/professionals
- If you have further questions about Veteran Health Checks you may email generalenquiries@dva.gov.au