

In-Vitro Fertilization Treatment Available to Eligible Veterans

Congress passed Public Law 114-223 on September 29, 2016 as part of a multi-agency continuing appropriations package. In Title II of the Act, Congress authorized VA to pay for assisted reproductive technologies including in-vitro fertilization (IVF), notwithstanding the longstanding ban on VA to pay or provide such care. In addition, Public Law 114-223 authorized VA to reimburse eligible veterans for adoption costs.

On January 19, 2017, VA proposed its final rule to allow provision of assisted reproductive technologies, including IVF, to certain eligible veterans *and their spouses*. In order to be eligible, veterans must be service connected for a condition that makes them unable to procreate without assistance. VA is following guidance established by DOD, which generally limits funding for IVF to 3 completed cycles and 6 attempts. It is estimated that IVF results in pregnancy for about 80% of patients. The regulations for reimbursement for adoption costs have not yet been promulgated.

VA already offers a limited array of diagnostic and treatment options including fertility counseling, lab blood testing, surgical correction of structural pathologies, reversals of vasectomy or tubal ligation, medication and other diagnostic testing and procedures. It is estimated that genitourinary injuries and other conditions such as traumatic brain or spinal cord injuries will make up to 400,000 eligible for such care.

Interested veterans should contact their local VA primary care providers to schedule appointments to determine their eligibility for assisted reproductive technologies, including IVF.

In addition, women veterans may call the VA Women's Call Center at 1-855-VA-Women (1-855-829-6636).

DAV Resolution 256 calls for improved care for veterans in need of assisted reproductive technologies because of service connected disabilities which affect their ability to procreate.