

0320**REFERRAL TO OTHER RESOURCES FOR MED CARE****0320.05****AVAILABILITY OF OTHER RESOURCES**

REV:01/2002

In addition to the Medical Assistance Program, there are other resources within the State for individuals with medical needs.

Some individuals may be concurrently eligible for more than one of these resources, such as Office of Rehabilitation Services and Medical Assistance. Veterans' benefits may also be received instead of, or in addition to, Medical Assistance or other assistance programs.

Applicants who do not meet the eligibility requirements for Medical Assistance may be eligible for one or more of the following programs:

- o Veterans' Benefits (VA);
- o Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS);
- o Rhode Island Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Elderly.

0320.10**REHABILITATION (ORS) SERVICES**

REV:01/2002

When a recipient of MA is eligible for Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS), or a recipient of ORS is eligible for MA, the medical expenses are shared by the two agencies.

ORS has the responsibility for the administration of all services needed to preserve or develop to the maximum the self-sufficiency of the individual toward a vocational goal.

0320.10.05**VR Responsibilities**

REV:01/2002

In order to fully utilize the services of both agencies, ORS assumes responsibility for the following services:

- o A complete general medical examination providing an appraisal of the current medical status of the individual;

- o Examination by specialists in all fields as needed, including psychiatric and/or psychological examinations in all cases of suspected mental or emotional illness;
- o Such laboratory tests, x-ray services and other indicated studies as are necessary to establish the diagnosis(es), to determine the extent to which disability limits the individual's daily living and work activities, and to estimate the potential results of physical restoration services;
- o The initial purchase of durable medical equipment and surgical and prosthetic appliances required as part of a vocational rehabilitation plan;
- o Inpatient and outpatient services provided by rehabilitation facilities not covered within the scope of services of the Rhode Island Medical Assistance Program;
- o Private psychiatric services within the normal limitations of the ORS program;
- o All other medical services and supplies which are required as part of an overall ORS plan that are not covered by the Rhode Island Medical Assistance

Program.

0320.10.10 MA Responsibilities
REV:06/1994

The Medical Assistance Program assumes responsibility for payment of the following services:

- o Hospital services in licensed general hospitals certified for participation in the Title XVIII and Title XIX Programs when provided in accordance with applicable Federal and State rules and regulations;
- o Durable medical equipment and surgical and prosthetic appliances utilized on an ongoing basis;
- o Hemodialysis treatments provided in a hospital or a

hemodialysis facility;

- o All other medical services and supplies which are medically justifiable and included within the scope of services of the Rhode Island Medical Assistance Program, but not covered by Vocational Rehabilitation.

0320.10.15 Prior Authorization Required

REV:06/1994

All medical services and supplies paid for by the Medical Assistance Program will be provided in accordance with established methods of reimbursement, fee schedules and other applicable rules and regulations. Since certain hospital and outpatient department services provided in out-of-state hospitals require prior authorization, consultation between the two agencies will be required before authorization is granted for such services. All rehabilitative services will be provided within the scope of services of VR. Referrals between the two agencies will be administered as agreed upon by both agencies.

VR will take the initiative to evaluate and determine those services needed to return an individual to a remunerative occupation. Those medical services not directly connected with the individual's major disabling condition and vocational rehabilitation process will be included.

MA will be responsible for the ongoing medical needs not directly related to the vocational rehabilitation process.

VR will provide ongoing counseling and guidance and other non-medical services required to achieve the individual's vocational objective.

0320.10.20 Referral of MA Ineligible Individ w/Disability

REV:01/2002

When an individual who is ineligible for MA has a disability, s/he may be referred to:

Office of Rehabilitative Services (ORS)
40 Fountain Street
Providence, RI 02903
Telephone: 421-7005

0320.15 VETERANS BENEFITS

REV:06/1994

In addition to the regular Compensation (for service connected disabilities) or Pension (for non-service connected disabilities) that a veteran (and his/her dependents) or a widow pensioner receives, additional amounts are allowed when the individual:

- o Is housebound;
- o Has unusual medical expense (reimbursed expenditures above 5% of income which could reduce countable income below VA income limitation, thereby creating entitlement);
or
- o When the individual is in need of aid or attendance (this will be construed to include public or private nursing care facilities, foster homes and non-profit organizations).

0320.15.15.05 Death Benefits

REV:01/2002

Death benefits (gratuity) are available only to veterans who receive compensation or had active duty during wartime.

0320.15.15.10 Medical Benefits

REV:01/2002

Information about medical benefits available through the Veterans Administration Medical Centers for veterans whose benefits are service connected or non-service connected may be obtained from :

VA Medical Center
Davis Park
Providence, Rhode Island

0320.15.15.15 Cost of Living Increases

REV:06/1994

Whenever there is a cost of living increase in Social Security benefits the VA shall, effective the date the increase becomes effective, increase by the same percentage the maximum annual rates of the VA pension.

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How to Receive VA Benefits

All benefits must be applied for and substantiating data must be provided by the veteran or survivor.

Individuals potentially eligible may be referred directly to:

Veterans Administration Regional Office
380 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903
Telephone: 1-800-827-1000

If the individual questions whether there is eligibility for a specific program or benefit or needs help in making the application, referral may be made to:

Office of Veterans Affairs
600 New London Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920
Telephone: 462-0350

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RI PHARMACEUTICAL ASSIST FOR ELDERLY (RIPAE)

RIPAE is operated by the Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs. The program provides assistance to low and middle income individuals or couples, 65 years of age or older, to help pay for prescription medication for certain medical conditions.

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Eligibility for Coverage

To be eligible, an individual must:

- o Be a resident of Rhode Island;
- o Be sixty-five (65) years of age or older;
- o Have income within program guidelines established by the Department of Elderly Affairs; and
- o Have no coverage for prescription medication.

0320.20.10
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Covered Medications

Current information about medications covered by RIPAE may be obtained from the Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs. In 2001, RIPAE covered a portion of the cost of prescriptions used to treat Alzheimer's disease, arthritis, diabetes, heart problems, depression, anti-infectives, Parkinson's disease, high blood pressure, cancer, urinary incontinence, circulatory insufficiency, high cholesterol, asthma and chronic respiratory conditions, glaucoma, and prescriptive vitamins and mineral supplements for renal patients.

0320.20.15

Application Process

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Elderly individuals, ineligible for MA, should contact the Department of Elderly Affairs at 222-2880 for information concerning RIPAE and other programs for which s/he may be eligible.