

# Services for LGBT Veterans

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# Who is eligible for VHA benefits?

- You may be able to get VHA benefits if you served in the active military, naval, or air service and didn't receive a dishonorable discharge.
- Served prior to September 7, 1980
- If you enlisted after September 7, 1980, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981, you must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which you were called to active duty
- If you're a current or former member of the Reserves or National Guard

For more detailed information please visit:  
<https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/>

# Barriers for LGBT Veterans and the VA

- Hurtful/rejecting experiences in the military
- Relationships and support systems are not validated by staff
- Concern about judgements and anti-LGBT comments made by other veterans

# History of LGBT Program at VA

- June 9, 2011 - VHA Directive 1341 Providing Health Care for Transgender and Intersex Veterans
- March 31, 2016 – National Program for Points of Contact for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Veterans
- July 6 2017 – VHA Directive 1340 (1) Provision of Health care for Veterans who identify as Lesbian, Gay, or Bisexual.

# What does the VA offer LGBT Veterans?

- Couple's therapy
- Hormone therapy
- Individual and group therapy
- Letters of support
- Orchiectomy
- Prosthetic devices
- Pre-operative evaluations
- Post Operative Care
- Social/Support Groups
- Substance abuse/alcohol treatment
- Tobacco Use treatment
- Treatment and prevention of STI's/PrEP
- Voice therapy

# Who can receive these services?

- Any Veteran who identifies themselves as LGBT and who is also enrolled into the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) system
- Between WWII – 1993, approximately **114,000** gay and lesbian service members were *dishonorably* discharged and unable to receive VA benefits – there are national and local groups who assist Veterans in upgrading their discharge records
- Cost of these services is based on your service connection

# Where can you receive VHA services?

- 2 large facilities
  - Seattle, includes Emergency Services
  - American Lake Division, includes Urgent Care Services
- 7 Community- Based Outpatient Clinics – provides health and wellness visits
  - Bellevue
  - Bremerton
  - Chehalis
  - Federal Way
  - Lake City
  - Mount Vernon
  - Port Angeles

# LGBT Veteran Care Coordinator Role

- Monitor the environment of care
- Provide Staff Education
- Outreach
- Point Person
- Communicate with leadership and other community stakeholders