



## WHAT TO EXPECT FROM YOUR VA PROSTHETIC AND SENSORY AIDS SERVICE

VA Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service (PSAS) is the largest and most comprehensive provider of prosthetic devices and sensory aids in the world. The term “prosthetic” includes artificial limbs and any devices that support or replace a body part or function.

The mission of PSAS is to provide comprehensive support to optimize health and independence of the Veteran. Our vision is to be the premier source of prosthetic and orthotic services, sensory aids, medical equipment, and support services for Veterans.

### ELIGIBILITY

General eligibility for prosthetic services/items is Veterans:

- enrolled in the VA health care system, and
- have a medical need for a prosthetic service/item

Additional eligibility criteria may apply for certain programs.



### CLINICAL SERVICES

#### Orthotic and Prosthetic Services

PSAS provides clinical orthotic and prosthetic (O&P) assessments and treatment that includes custom fabricated and fitted orthotic and prosthetic devices. Veterans are assessed by a multidisciplinary team consisting of a physician,

Prosthetist, Therapist, and Prosthetic Representative to attend to specific needs of the individual Veteran. VA extends this service to returning Servicemembers not just Veterans to ensure there is no delay in our wounded heroes receiving the equipment they need.



#### Hearing Aids and Eye Glasses

Hearing aids and eye glasses are provided to:

- Veterans who are receiving compensation for service connected disabilities, or who have non-compensable service connected disability for hearing loss
- Former prisoners of war, Purple Heart recipients, Veterans receiving increased pension based on the need for regular aid and attendance or

being permanently housebound, or Veterans enrolled in vocational rehabilitation program

For more information, please contact your local Prosthetic Service at the nearest VA medical center.

#### Other Prosthetic Services and Items

PSAS provides a wide range of comprehensive services and items including, but not limited to:

- Sensory aids such as hearing and blind aids
- Mobility aids such as walkers and wheelchairs
- Communication and assistive devices
- Home respiratory therapy such as home oxygen services
- Recreational / rehabilitative equipment
- Surgical Implants
- Durable medical equipment
- Prosthetic item repairs





### BENEFIT PROGRAMS

#### Automobile Adaptive Equipment (AAE)

This program provides the necessary AAE and training to enable disabled Veterans and Servicemembers to operate a motor vehicle safely and permit access to and from the vehicle in a safe manner.

Veteran/Servicemember must be in receipt of an approved VA Form 21-4502 or a disability rating sheet provided by Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA).



AAE examples are:

- power windows
- air conditioning
- vehicle modifications
- vehicle lifts
- wheelchair tie downs

#### Home Improvement & Structural Alterations (HISA) Grant

HISA grant provides for medically necessary improvements and structural alterations to a Veteran/Servicemember's residence for the following purposes:

- allowing entrance to, or exit from their primary residence
- use of essential lavatory and sanitary facilities
- allowing accessibility to kitchen or bathroom sinks or counters
- improving entrance paths or driveways in immediate area of the home to facilitate access to the home
- improving plumbing or electrical systems made necessary due to installation of medical equipment in the home



Bathroom before HISA

A \$6,800 lifetime benefit may be provided to Veterans and Servicemembers or a service-connected condition or a non-service connected condition rated 50% or more for a service-connected disability.



Bathroom after HISA

A \$2,000 lifetime benefit may be provided for a non-service connected condition.

To apply, please contact your local Prosthetic Service at the nearest VA medical center.

#### Clothing Allowance

Veterans who are service-connected for a disability for which they use prosthetic or orthopedic appliances or whose service-connected skin condition requires prescribed medication that irreparably damages outer garments may receive an annual clothing allowance payment.

Beginning December 16, 2011, multiple clothing allowance payments are payable for Veterans who have one or more appliances/devices/skin medications that causes wear, tear, or irreparable damage to one or more articles of clothing.

To apply for one or more clothing allowances, complete VA Form 10-8678 no later than August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

