

FOCUS

SPECIAL MONTHLY PENSION ALLOWANCE CHECKLIST *to help families and caregivers focus on what matters*

Find the Right Care for the Veteran

- Review available care choices on page 4 of the **FOCUS Special Monthly Pension Allowance Resource Guide** and select the best option for the Veteran's circumstances. Consider such factors as:
 - Location
 - Hours
 - Costs
 - Staff
 - Medical & Care Services
 - Meals & Nutrition
 - Exercise & Therapy
 - Group Activities
 - Emergencies
 - Safety & Supervision
 - Transportation
 - Your loved one's needs

Pre-Application Process

- If the Veteran is not already in receipt of Veterans Pension, file a [VA Form 21-0966](#), *Intent to File*, to hold the application date for one year.
- Begin gathering application materials:

To apply for Veterans Pension:	VA Form 21P-527EZ , <i>Application for Veterans Pension</i>
To apply for SMP:	VA Form 21-2680 , <i>Examination for Housebound Status Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance</i>
To claim medical expenses:	VA Form 21P-8416 , <i>Medical Expense Report</i>
To report nursing home information:	VA Form 21-0779 , <i>Request for Nursing Home Information in Connection with Claim for Aid and Attendance</i>
To appoint a representative:	VA Form 21-22 , <i>Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative</i>

- Complete the necessary documentation:
 - If the Veteran **is not** already receiving Veterans Pension, complete a [VA Form 21P-527EZ](#), [VA Form 21-2680](#)* and/or a [VA Form 21-0779](#), or
 - If the Veteran **is** already receiving Veterans Pension, complete a [VA Form 21-0995](#), *Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim*, [VA Form 21-2680](#)* and/or a [VA Form 21-0779](#)
- Send the completed application materials to the address on the forms, or as indicated [here](#).

* Make an appointment with the Veteran's physician to complete the VA Form 21-2680.

If the Veteran is unable to sign the application forms, an alternate signer may do so on his/her behalf by completing a [VA Form 21-0972](#), *Alternate Signer Certification*.

After Application is Submitted

- Check the application's status on VA.gov or by calling 1-800-827-1000
- Report any changes in income or net worth changes on a [VA Form 21-4138](#), *Statement in Support of Claim*, and any medical expense or provider changes on a [VA Form 21P-8416](#).

If additional information is needed, it will be requested via telephone or letter.