VA

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Office of Informatics and Analytics

My health e vet
www.myhealth.va.gov

My Health, My Care: 24/7 Online Access to VA

VA OpenNotes: Easier Access to Your VA Electronic Health Information

If you receive care from VA and have a Premium* My Health*e*Vet account, you can now view, print and download your health record information using VA Blue Button.

What is VA OpenNotes?

VA OpenNotes is a new service that 'opens' access to your health information through My Health*e*Vet (www.myhealth.va.gov). Your health care team records information about your visit and care as a note in your health record. These notes document care and services performed. Notes are part of your record and allow your health care team to stay updated on all of your VA care.

Why is VA OpenNotes important to me?

By viewing notes from your VA health record, you gain information about your health and your care. With easier access to your information, you can better partner with your health care team and make informed decisions about your health.

VA OpenNotes may help you:

- Better understand your health conditions
- Be more prepared for clinic visits
- Identify important questions to ask your provider
- Stay up to date with your health issues and treatments between visits
- Partner with your health care team to set goals about your health
- Share your VA health information with caregivers and providers outside VA
- Help make your health record complete and accurate

How can I access my VA electronic health information?

To view VA OpenNotes you need to:

- Be a Veteran enrolled at a VA health care facility
- Be registered as a VA Patient in My Health*e*Vet
- Have an upgraded Premium* My Health*e*Vet account

Then click on Blue Button 'Download My Data' in My Health*e*Vet to access all of your available personal health information.

What is a clinical or progress note?

After an appointment or hospital stay, your provider and health care team write a note about that visit in your VA Electronic Health Record. The note is a summary of important issues about your health. Notes have several parts, and may include:

- A list of medical problems or symptoms
- What you told your provider, also called the "history"
- Vital signs and physical observations or measurements, such as blood pressure, weight, or heart and lung exams
- Test results such as blood or urine tests, or X-ray reports
- Your provider's views of your health problems, called "Assessment" or "Impression"
- The recommended treatment plan, called "Plan" (or A/P, Assessment/Plan)
- Suggested follow up needed, such as tests or referrals to a specialist

What VA Notes will I be able to view, print and download?

VA Notes are available three (3) days after being completed by all health care team members responsible for the note. VA Notes written from January 1, 2013 forward may be viewed using VA Blue Button.

What can I do if I have questions about my VA Notes?

VA Notes may have terms or abbreviations that are not familiar to you. You are encouraged to research your health information using trusted websites, including MedlinePlus and My Health*e*Vet. Discuss your notes and information with your VA provider and health care team:

- Write down your questions to talk about with your provider at your next visit
- Talk with your VA health care team about your notes or test results at your next visit
- Use My Health*e*Vet Secure Messaging with your VA health care team

If you believe information in your notes is not correct, please speak to your provider or health care team about your concerns. You can ask to amend your health record by submitting a written request to your VA facility Privacy Officer.

*To get an upgraded Premium My Health*e*Vet account, you must complete Authentication. This one time step proves your identity and allows you to access your VA health information. Visit My Health*e*Vet to learn more: www.myhealth.va.gov.

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