



Meet the Veteran Health Identification Card

Frequently Asked Questions

Must I be enrolled in the VA Health Care System to receive a Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)?

Yes. Only enrolled Veterans receive a VHIC.

What if I am NOT enrolled?

If you are not enrolled with the VA for your health care, we encourage you to apply for enrollment online at <https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll> or by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387). You also can apply for enrollment in person at your local VA medical facility. Once your enrollment is verified, your picture can be taken at your local VA medical center so that a VHIC can be created and mailed to you. To ensure your identity, you must provide both one primary and one secondary approved document. Expired identification is not acceptable. The chart below lists the forms of acceptable proof of identification.



Primary Identification	Secondary Identification
Present ONE form of Primary Identification	Present ONE form of Secondary Identification
State-issued Driver's license	Social Security Card
U.S. Passport or U.S. Passport Card (unexpired)	Original or certified Birth Certificate
Foreign passport with Form I-94 or Form I-94A (unexpired)	Certification of Birth Abroad Issued by the Department of State (Form FS-545)
U.S. Military card	Certification of Report of Birth issued by the Department of State (Form DS-1350)
Military dependent's ID card	Voter's Registration Card
U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Card	Native American Tribal Document
Foreign passport that contains a temporary I-551 stamp	U.S. Citizen ID Card (Form I-197)
Permanent Resident Card or Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I- 551)	Identification Card for Use of Resident Citizen in the United States (Form I-179)
Federal, state, or local government issued ID card with a photograph	Employment Authorization document issued by the Department of Homeland Security
Employment Authorization Document that contains a photograph (Form I-766)	Canadian Drivers License

If I have the old Veteran Identification Card (VIC), do I need to go to the VA to have a photo taken for the new VHIC?

Yes. If you did not automatically receive a new VHIC by November 30, 2014, you will need to go to a VA medical facility to be identity proofed (using one primary and one secondary ID), to have a photo taken and to have a new VHIC ordered for you.

Can I use my VIC until I receive my VHIC?

Yes. Please remember the VIC includes your Social Security number in the bar code and magnetic stripe. It is important to safeguard your VIC just as you would a credit card to prevent unauthorized access to your identity information.

What should I do with my VIC?

When you receive your VHIC, you should destroy your old VIC by cutting it up or shredding it.

I served in more than one branch of the military. Can I have all of my military service emblems displayed on my VHIC?

No. Due to space limitations, only one branch of service can be displayed on your card.

Why is my branch of service, POW or service connection status not on my new VHIC?

When your card was requested, the enrollment system may not yet have received an update with your new service connection, POW status, branch of service or Purple Heart status. You may need to take documentation to your medical facility to update the enrollment system. You can request a new card once the VHIC clerk confirms that the information can be seen on the VHIC application.

What do I do if I lose my new VHIC?

Some Veterans who lose their VHIC will need to visit their nearest VA medical center to apply for a replacement card, while others will be able to apply for a new card over the phone. The difference depends on the circumstances by which the initial card was issued and the age of the photo on the lost card. Veterans who lose their VHIC should call their nearest VA medical center or VA toll free at 1-877-222-VETS (8387) to determine what steps are needed to apply for a replacement card.

I have questions ... who can I call?

For more information, call VA toll free at 1-877-222-VETS (8387) between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Eastern, Monday through Friday.