

If not delivered: GPO Box 9998 in your capital city

9 September 2019

**DVA Ref:** Treatment Cycle 00E



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

<GPNAME>  
<GPADDRESS1>  
<GPADDRESS2>

Dear General Practitioner,

**The new treatment cycle: changes to allied health referrals for DVA-funded care**

From 1 October 2019, referrals for DVA clients to allied health services are changing. Referrals will be valid for up to 12 sessions or a year, whichever ends first. This is the new 'treatment cycle'.

Veterans with a Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) Gold Card from DVA are excluded from the treatment cycle requirements for exercise physiology and physiotherapy services.

**Why is the treatment cycle being introduced?**

The treatment cycle supports a more collaborative approach to the care of DVA clients. Better communication and coordination between GPs, allied health providers and the DVA client will help ensure they receive clinically appropriate care based on their needs.

It is important that GPs review the progress and outcomes of allied health treatment, as they coordinate care for DVA clients and are familiar with all their client's health care needs. This is particularly important when managing ongoing or chronic conditions.

**What do I need to do from 1 October 2019?**

From 1 October 2019, referrals for DVA clients to allied health services will be valid for up to 12 sessions or a year, whichever ends first (excluding referrals for exercise physiology and physiotherapy for TPI Gold Card holders).

You may refer your patient for as many treatment cycles as you consider to be clinically necessary. Your patient can also have treatment cycles for different allied health services at the same time, if clinically indicated.

When you refer a DVA client to an allied health provider, the allied health provider will need to prepare a treatment plan and goals with the client. At the end of the treatment cycle, the allied health provider will send you a report on the client's progress.

This report should be used to assist your review of the client's progress and assess if further allied health treatment is clinically required, or whether other treatment options are needed.

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If your patient is a TPI Gold Card holder, they can continue to receive an annual or indefinite referral to exercise physiology or physiotherapy services. The treatment cycle arrangements apply to TPI Gold Card holders when they are referred to other allied health services. The DVA Gold Card clearly indicates if a client is a TPI veteran.

### **Transitioning to the treatment cycle arrangements**

All new referrals made from 1 October 2019 will be subject to treatment cycle arrangements, excluding referrals to exercise physiology and physiotherapy for TPI Gold Card holders.

Clients with an existing *indefinite* allied health referral can receive up to 12 sessions or one year access (whichever ends first) of allied health treatment after 1 October 2019 before requiring a new GP referral.

Clients with an existing *annual* referral can receive up to 12 sessions of allied health treatment after 1 October 2019, or until their annual referral expires (if that occurs first).

### **Where can I find more information?**

The leaflets for GPs and general practice teams that come with this letter explain more about how treatment cycles work. You can also visit the DVA website for more information: [www.dva.gov.au/treatment-cycle](http://www.dva.gov.au/treatment-cycle)

If you have any questions about this letter you can contact DVA on 1800 550 457 (from the menu select option 3 followed by option 1).

Yours sincerely,

Kate Pope  
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Veterans' Services Design Division