



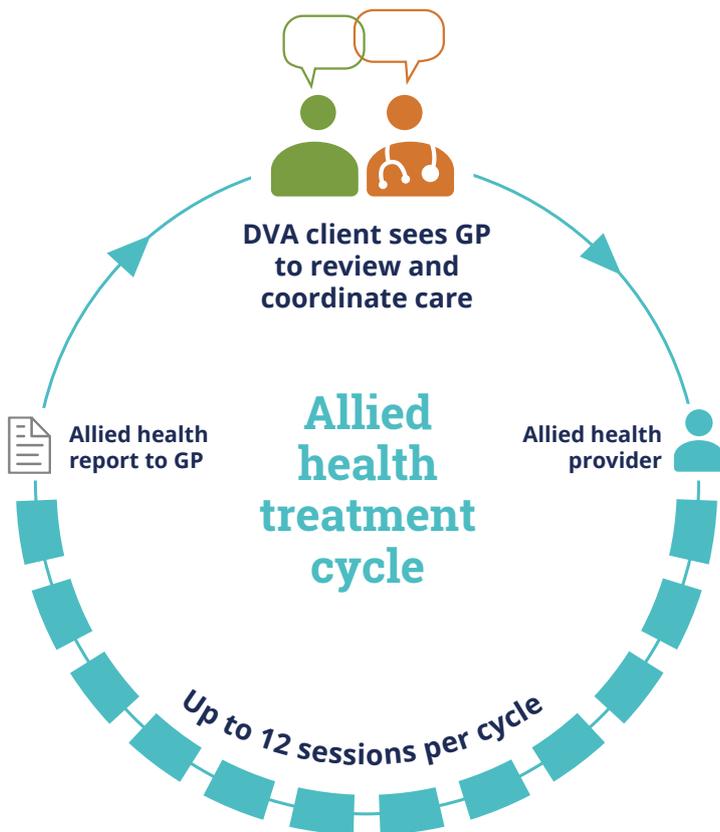
Australian Government  
Department of Veterans' Affairs

## Allied health treatment cycle

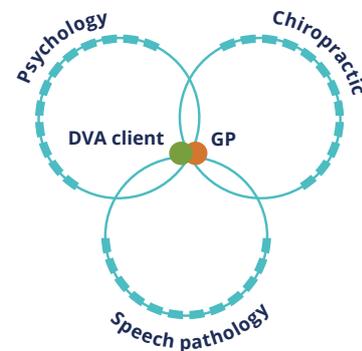
# General practice teams

The treatment cycle is a new way to manage allied health treatment for DVA clients. It aims to improve the quality of care for clients and make sure they get the best treatment for their needs. It improves communication and coordination between clients, their GP and their allied health providers.

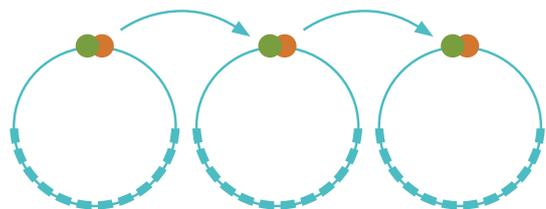
For more details and clinical resources, including which allied health professions are covered under the treatment cycle, see [www.dva.gov.au/treatment-cycle](http://www.dva.gov.au/treatment-cycle)



### Multiple allied health treatment areas at the same time



### No limit to the number of cycles that are clinically necessary





DVA clients who have a Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) Gold Card do not use the treatment cycle for physiotherapy and exercise physiology services.

Check the client's DVA card to see if they are a TPI client.

TPI clients receiving physiotherapy or exercise physiology:

- need an annual or indefinite referral for physiotherapy or exercise physiology
- can have as many sessions as are clinically necessary in the period covered by the referral
- do not need the physiotherapist or exercise physiologist to report to the GP after 12 sessions.

Exercise physiology and physiotherapy services for TPI clients must still be clinically necessary, evidence based and goals focused.

For allied health services other than physiotherapy or exercise physiology, TPI clients must use the treatment cycle.

See the DVA website for a leaflet for physiotherapy and exercise physiology practice teams:  
[www.dva.gov.au/treatment-cycle](http://www.dva.gov.au/treatment-cycle)

## What do I need to do?

GPs will coordinate care for DVA clients in the treatment cycle, with support from the general practice team. For all DVA clients, except for TPI clients receiving physiotherapy or exercise physiology, you need to:

- know the client's referral to an allied health provider is valid for up to 12 sessions or one year, whichever ends first
- be aware of the details required by DVA in referrals made by GPs to allied health providers
- know the allied health provider must provide a report to the GP at the end of the treatment cycle
- be aware that DVA clients will require an appointment with their usual GP to review the progress of their allied health treatment and get a new referral for another cycle if needed
- support the GP to coordinate care from multiple allied health providers for each DVA client, as needed
- help the DVA client manage multiple treatment cycles and GP appointments efficiently.

## Why have a treatment cycle?

To improve the quality of DVA clients' care through coordination and better communication between GPs, allied health providers and patients. The treatment cycle reinforces the role of the DVA client as the centre of care and the GP as the care coordinator.

The treatment cycle benefits DVA clients, GPs and allied health providers through:

- improved management planning
- increased coordination of care
- increased communication between providers
- stronger continuity of care and clinical accountability
- regular review to ensure that DVA clients get the most effective treatment for their needs.

See the DVA website for more information and guidance about the treatment cycle:

[www.dva.gov.au/treatment-cycle](http://www.dva.gov.au/treatment-cycle)

### Did you know?

On average, DVA clients who use allied health services see their GP 14 times a year. This means that, for most DVA clients, the treatment cycle will not change how often they need to see their GP.