Helping veterans manage their medicines

Dose Administration Aid service

At a glance for pharmacists

## What is DVA’s DAA service?

The DVA Dose Administration Aid (DAA) service provides a DAA at no cost to eligible veterans who hold a Veteran Gold, White or Orange Card and reside in the community.

A DAA is a compartmentalised box or blister pack type device used to aid the administration of solid or oral medications, in accordance with requirements set out by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

## How to help veterans access the DVA DAA service

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| Step 1 | The veteran has a consultation with the GP to discuss the need and benefit of the DAA service.  It is strongly recommended that a Home Medicines Review (MBS 900) be conducted prior to the DAA service as part of the ongoing care for the veteran.   * Pharmacist claims HMR |
| Step 2 | The GP is required to ring the Veterans’ Affairs Pharmaceutical Advisory Centre (VAPAC) – 1800 552 580 – for two Authority Prescriptions for the six month DAA service. This is repeated every six months while the veteran remains on the program.   * One Authority Prescription is required for the DAA service for six months (original with 25 repeats). * One Authority Prescription is required for the Veteran’s Six Monthly Review (VSMR).   Both Authorities can be provided by VAPAC at the beginning of the six month cycle.  The GP provides the Authority Prescription to the veteran. |
| Step 3 | The veteran receives the DAA weekly from the pharmacist for 26 weeks.  The pharmacist provides information on how to use the DAA and assists the veteran.   * Pharmacist claims 99647N $10 × 26 weeks |
| Step 4 | After week 20, the pharmacist conducts a VSMR using the [D9132 form](https://www.dva.gov.au/about-us/dva-forms/dose-administration-aid-daa-service-vsmr), available on the DVA website. The assessment is to ensure that the veteran is managing with the DAA and to make a recommendation to the GP for continuing use.  The assessment is faxed to the referring GP.   * Pharmacist claims 99648P $100 |
| Step 5 | The veteran returns to the GP for a consultation. If the continued use of a DAA is recommended, and agreed to by the veteran, the GP is able to prescribe – on Authority – the DAA Service for a further six months by returning to Step 2. |

**Please note**

It is strongly recommended that the veteran receive a Home Medicines Review (HMR) in conjunction with the DAA service, especially within the first six-month cycle where no other HMR has been performed within the preceding 12 months. However, it is at the GP’s discretion whether the patient would benefit from a HMR.

**VAPAC** is the Veterans’ Affairs Pharmaceutical Advisory Centre and is responsible for the provision of advice regarding the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS). VAPAC provides a prior approvals service for medication needing prior financial approval before being supplied to eligible beneficiaries.

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|  | **Contact** |
| VAPAC | 1800 552 580 |
| DVA | 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) |
| VAPAC email enquiries | [PPO@dva.gov.au](mailto:PPO@dva.gov.au) |

## Benefits (current as at 1 September 2022)

| **Description** | **Who** | **Item number** | **Fee** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Home Medicines Review  (report for GP review) | Accredited pharmacist, through community pharmacy or ABN business | NA | \*1 |
| Dispense DAA weekly for 26 weeks | Pharmacist | 99647N | $10.00 × 26 |
| VSMR  (report for GP review) | Community pharmacist | 99648P | $100.00 |
| \*1 Only a business entity with an ABN, plus relationship with an accredited pharmacist registered with Medicare to provide a HMR, is eligible. Fees subject to change: refer to the [Pharmacy Programs Administrator](https://www.ppaonline.com.au/). | | | |

## Veterans’ eligibility criteria

1. Veterans must hold either a **Gold, White** or **Orange** Card.
2. Veterans must live in the community and not in a residential care facility or hospital.
3. Veterans should meet the criteria for a Home Medicines Review: refer to item number 900 on the [MBS](http://www9.health.gov.au/mbs/).
4. Veterans must be **likely to benefit** from the DAA service.

### Veterans must provide verbal consent to:

* a Home Medicines Review if recommended by the doctor, and any later reviews involving the community pharmacy and other health professionals involved in their care
* communication between their health care professionals – especially pharmacists and GPs – about their conditions and medications
* providing their DVA file number to the pharmacist and Medicare for payment purposes.

### Veterans are responsible for:

* meeting any additional costs not covered by DVA, including additional GP consultations (especially Orange Card holders)
* providing all solid oral medicines (including relevant non-prescription medicines) to their community pharmacy for packing, and attending the pharmacy to collect the DAA weekly, as agreed with the pharmacist
* informing the pharmacist of any changes to their medicines in a timely manner.