

# Clothing Allowance Eligibility

- ▶ A Veteran must be Service Connected for the condition in which the prosthetic, orthopedic appliance or skin medication is prescribed.
- ▶ The appliance or medication that was prescribed must cause wear and tear and/or staining to outer garments.
- ▶ A Veteran must re-apply for the Clothing Allowance Benefit each year
- ▶ You must file your application by August 1<sup>st</sup>
- ▶ You must have received your prosthetic, orthopedic appliance or skin medication prior to August 1<sup>st</sup>
- ▶ A yearly re-evaluation is recommended to determine that the device and/or medication is still medically needed



## Examples of items that tend to cause irreparable wear and tear to outer garments:



- ▶ Prostheses
- ▶ Rigid Ankle Braces/Foot Orthosis (AFO) with hooks
- ▶ Rigid AFO
- ▶ Manual wheelchairs without clothing guard
- ▶ Wheelchairs with positioning and posturing adaptations
- ▶ Specialized wheelchairs with sliding board/sliding transfer functionalities
- ▶ Rigid orthoses
- ▶ Crutches
- ▶ Colostomy or ileostomy
- ▶ Cervical braces
- ▶ Rigid knee Braces with exposed hinges
- ▶ Wrist braces with exposed hinges

## Example of items that tend to cause damage cont.



- ▶ Some skin medications, ointments or lotions prescribed by the VA that may cause irreparable staining, discoloration and damage not removable by laundering or dry cleaning may be covered.

## Examples of items that do NOT tend to tear and wear clothing:

- ▶ Soft orthotics
- ▶ Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS) Unit
- ▶ Shoes
- ▶ Shoe Inserts
- ▶ Non-specialized wheelchairs (sedentary/sitting purposes)
- ▶ Scooters
- ▶ Canes
- ▶ Rollator
- ▶ Walkers
- ▶ Elastic/flexible braces
- ▶ Items with Velcro stays
- ▶ Hinged braces covered in fabric (metal stays covered)
- ▶ Braces with plastic stays covered in fabric



# Clothing Allowance Process

- ▶ You must be Service Connected and have been prescribed a qualifying prosthetic, orthopedic appliance or skin medication for that Service Connected condition.
- ▶ Fill out the Clothing Allowance VA Form 10-8678 and turn it into your local VA Prosthetics Department by August 1<sup>st</sup>
- ▶ Prosthetics will review your claim
- ▶ Once a decision has been made, a letter will be mailed to you informing you of the decision.
- ▶ If you are approved for 1 or more Clothing Allowance Benefit(s) the VBA will pay your award amount between September 1 and October 31 of the same year. (this is only paid once per year)
- ▶ If you are denied and you would like to appeal the decision, you may follow the instructions on the Appeals VA Form 10-0998 enclosed in your decision letter.
- ▶ **\*\*NOTE: YOU MUST RE-APPLY EACH YEAR\*\***

# What Is Clothing Allowance?

- ▶ The Clothing Allowance benefit reimburses you if your outer garments get permanently damaged by a prosthetic, orthopedic appliance you wear or by a prescribed skin medication, ointment or lotion.
- ▶ This is an ANNUAL benefit paid for by the VBA (Veterans Benefit Administration)
- ▶ Outer Garments include: Shirts, Blouses, Pants, shorts (items such as gloves, hats, and scarves are not included)
- ▶ Undergarments such as socks and underwear are not included



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