



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Medical Center
Alexandria, Louisiana 71306-9004

May 3, 2005

In Reply Refer To: 502/00PA

Dear Friend:

As of April 29, 2005, the Alexandria VA Medical Center is no longer scheduling appointments for new Non Service Connected (NSC) veterans. New NSC applicants will be enrolled and placed on a waiting list for a future appointment. This measure is necessary in order to maximize existing resources and to ensure that the veterans currently receiving health care at the Medical Center continue to receive high quality care. NSC veterans in special categories, i.e., homeless, chronically mentally ill, spinal cord injury, veterans in State Homes, and those recently returning Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF) veterans are not affected by this change.

This new process does not affect Service Connected (SC) veterans or any NSC veteran currently enrolled. Patients who fail to keep scheduled appointments will be contacted and may be given the opportunity to call for a future appointment at their convenience rather than having VA schedule an advanced appointment for them.

This suspension may be temporary, depending upon the available resources and is in effect at all VA Medical Centers within the South Central VA Healthcare Network (VISN 16). When we are able to begin seeing new Non Service Connected veterans outside the special categories, those on the waiting list will be notified and appointments scheduled.

Should you have additional questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Jay DeWorth, Administrative Assistant to the Director, at 318-473-0010, extension 2010, or Ms. Lakeeshun Obey, Enrollment Coordinator, at extension 2763.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara C. Watkins".

Barbara C. Watkins
Medical Center Director