SPECIAL MONTHLY PENSION (AID AND ATTENDANCE OR HOUSEBOUND)

WHAT IS SPECIAL MONTHLY PENSION?

Aid and Attendance (A&A) is an increased monthly pension amount paid to a Veteran or surviving spouse. You may be eligible if:

- You require the aid of another person to perform activities of daily living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, toileting, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting yourself from the hazards of your daily environment, **OR**
- You are bedridden, in that your disability or disabilities requires that you remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment, **OR**
- You are a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity, **OR**
- You have corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less, in both eyes, or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.

Housebound is an increased monthly pension amount paid to a claimant who is substantially confined to his or her home because of permanent disability. Additionally, if you are a Veteran, you may quality for the increased housebound amount if:

- You have a single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling **AND**, due to such disability, you are permanently and substantially confined to your immediate premises, **OR**,
- You have a single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling **AND**, another disability, or disabilities, evaluated as 60-percent or more disabling.

You may not receive special monthly pension without first establishing eligibility for VA pension. However, because special monthly pension is based upon a higher income limit, a claimant ineligible for basic pension due to excessive income may be eligible for enhanced pension benefits. You may not receive pension at the A&A and Housebound rate at the same time.

HOW TO APPLY FOR AID AND ATTENDANCE AND HOUSEBOUND:

- You may apply for pension at the A&A or Housebound rate by sending a completed VA Form 21-2680, Examination for Housebound or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance, to the VA Regional Office having jurisdiction over your claim. If you do not know which regional office has jurisdiction over your claim, you may submit your request to the VA Regional Office closest to your current residence. A directory of VA regional offices is available at http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/division.asp?dnum=3&isFlash=0.

- You should also provide copies of any evidence that would help establish that you need A&A or are Housebound. Such evidence would include a report from your physician validating the need for aid and attendance or demonstrating that you are housebound.

Note: If you are not currently receiving VA pension benefits, you must attach a completed application to the VA Form 21-2680 in order for VA to make a decision on your claim.

- For Veterans,
    - VA Form 21-526, Veteran's Application for Compensation and/or Pension
    - VA Form 21-527 or 21-527EZ, Application for Pension
- For survivors,
    - VA Form 21-534 or VA Form 21-534EZ, Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), Death Pension and Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child

HOW MUCH DOES VA PAY?

All pension rate tables, including the A&A and housebound rates, can be found on the Internet at http://www.benefits.va.gov/PENSION/current_rates_veteran_pen.asp (for Veterans pension) or http://www.benefits.va.gov/PENSION/current_rates_survivor_pen.asp (for survivors pension).