

# Army Caregiver Fact Sheet

*When your Servicemember falls ill or becomes injured, you can suddenly find yourself operating in a caregiver capacity. As you or a loved one take on this role, the emotional, physical, and financial toll of caring for a Wounded Warrior can feel overwhelming. However, there are steps you and your Wounded Warrior can take to make the journey as seamless as possible, and you may be eligible for a number of benefits that support your Servicemember's recovery and transition into a new stage of their lives.*

## **First Steps: Traveling to your Wounded Warrior**

- A liaison officer from the Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Division (CMAOD) will contact you and to help you navigate through the reunification process with your loved one. This includes steps to make travel arrangements, i.e., transportation, lodging, incidentals, and meals (at the government rate). Additionally, the liaison will help you process initial paperwork, and connect you with a Soldier Recovery Unit (SRU) liaison that will assist you get to your loved one as soon as possible.
- Up to three immediate family members of a Wounded Warrior are authorized to travel to their loved one on government travel orders. These orders will grant you access to the installation or hospital where your Wounded Warrior is receiving care as long as you have valid government or state-issued identification. Your designated SRU liaison will also help you gain unaccompanied access to common areas on installation such as service stations, the commissary, and the base exchange.
- While your travel orders cover your transportation arrangement to and from the installation where your Soldier is receiving care, additional arrangements should be made for further transportation. Whether you need to rent a car or need to request additional transportation assistance, your SRU liaison will guide you through the process.

## **Arriving to your Soldier's Location**

- When you arrive at the installation or hospital where your Soldier is receiving treatment, you will be greeted by your SRU liaison who will introduce you to your loved one's care team, which includes a Recovery Care Coordinator (RCC). The team will help you and other immediate family members establish a POC for your stay and answer any immediate questions. Your SRU liaison will then help facilitate initial lodging in or around the installation. Lodging is at no cost to you and your family.
- If you or an immediate family member is traveling with a child or an adult with special needs, your SRU liaison and RCC can help you establish care, and assist in identifying resources.
- If your Soldier is unable to make decisions on his or her own behalf during treatment, your SRU liaison and RCC can help you or an immediate family member take steps to obtain power of attorney.



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## Support and Benefits

- Once your Soldier is ready to be discharged to outpatient status, it is important to be prepared for the next steps in your loved one's journey. Your Soldier's care team will provide you with a discharge plan, which should cover everything from basic patient information, to home care instructions, to any patient education necessary for the recovery process. Your care team is there to answer any questions you may have, including directions on how to access critical entitlements and benefits for you and your Wounded Warrior.
- Your Wounded Warrior may also be eligible for a Non-Medical Attendant (NMA). An NMA is a person who contributes to the healing and recovery of a wounded, ill or injured Soldier once the Soldier is in out-patient status. The NMA is selected by the Soldier and approved by the attending physician, and may be a friend, family member, or another Soldier. The NMA can be appointed at any time while the Soldier is in an outpatient status. An NMA is placed on specific military orders, which provide them with benefits to facilitate caring for their Soldier such as reimbursements for lodging, food, mileage, or car rentals. In order to designate an NMA, a Soldier must be declared as "seriously ill, injured, or wounded" or "very seriously ill, injured or wounded" by their attending physician and due to the illness, injury, or wounds, needs continued outpatient treatment.
- While you are caring for your Wounded Warrior, please take care of yourself as well. As a caregiver or NMA, you may be entitled to specialized physical and mental health care at a military treatment facility. You will be required to provide information about your private health insurance to a Nurse Case Manager, who can help connect you to the best care possible based on your insurance plans. You might also be entitled to respite care if you are your Soldier's primary caregiver or NMA – talk to your SRU or RCC about this option to see if you are eligible.
- Army Invitational Travel Authorization: Government orders that can authorize up to three immediate family members of a Wounded Warrior may be authorized to travel to the installation or medical treatment facility where the Soldier is receiving care. Travel to and from the hospital, lodging expenses, meals, and incidental expenses may be reimbursed by the government. You will be paid a daily rate (per diem) for your meals and incidental expenses.
- Special Compensation for Assistance with Activities of Daily Living (SCAADL): SCAADL provides monthly compensation for Service members who incur permanent, catastrophic illnesses or injuries in the line of duty that require the services of a home health aide to provide non-medical care, support, and assistance. SCAADL provides up to 90 days of payments after separation from active duty based upon the level of care needed and prevailing rates for home health aides in the geographic area of the Service member's residence.
- Traumatic Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (TSGLI): Wounded Warriors may be entitled if they are covered by Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and they sustain an



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injury that results in 15 days of continuous inpatient hospital care or certain severe losses, such as loss of a limb, sensory loss, blindness, severe burns and inability to perform activities of daily living. All members of the uniformed services who have part-time or full time SGLI are automatically covered by TSGLI while the member is in service. TSGLI coverage will pay a benefit from \$25,000 to \$100,000 depending on eligibility and the severity of the loss resulting from traumatic injury.

## **Additional Resources**

- [Medical Travel Guide](#). This guide provides details on medical travel for Designated Individuals and Non-medical attendants.
- [Military OneSource provides support for eligible Soldiers and families at any time. You can find information on support resources at the website, and chat with a specialist in real time.](#) Military OneSource also provides [wounded warrior specialty consultation](#) services to help eligible wounded, ill or injured service members, veterans and caregivers get immediate assistance for issues related to health care, resources, facilities and benefits. Service members and veterans injured in accidents or battling serious illnesses are also eligible.
- Caregivers can support each other and share knowledge, experience and resources with [In-Person Military Caregiver PEER forums](#), held on military installations nationwide.
- [Army Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline](#): 1-800-984-8523
- [The Army Recovery Care Program](#) transitions Soldiers back to the force and/or to Veteran status, through a comprehensive program of medical case management/rehabilitation management, professional development, and achievement of personal goals.