



Australian Government

Department of Veterans' Affairs

## DVA Provider Information Sheet

### Removal of 'High' and 'Low' Care Distinction in Permanent Residential Aged Care

This information sheet is for providers/suppliers who deliver services or supply aids and appliances to eligible veterans and war widow/ers in residential aged care under DVA programmes

<b>What DVA programmes are affected by this change?</b>	This change affects the following DVA programmes: Rehabilitation Appliances Programme; DVA funded Allied Health services; and the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.
<b>Removal of 'high' and 'low' care - What is the change?</b>	From 1 July 2014, the distinction between low care and high care has been removed in permanent residential aged care for all new and existing residents. There will be no reduction in services provided under DVA programmes as a result of this change.
<b>What do we use in place of the 'high' and 'low' care distinction?</b>	DVA requires that you use the resident's Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) classification instead of the 'high' or 'low' classification to determine whether you can deliver services or supply aids and appliances under DVA arrangements. The ACFI classification is used to classify a resident's care needs for Australian Government funding purposes and can be obtained from the residential aged care facility.
<b>What is the ACFI classification?</b>	The ACFI classification is a three letter code with one letter representing the score for each of the three domain categories which make up the ACFI - Activities of Daily Living, Behaviour and Complex Health Care. The score for each domain category comes from the range of High, Medium, Low and Nil (assigned by the letters H, M, L, N).
<b>How do we use the ACFI classification?</b>	If the three letter code for a resident's ACFI classification includes at least one 'H' (High) or two 'M' (Medium) scores then the client is considered to have a greater level of care and the residential aged care facility is funded to provide this level of care and services, including the provision of allied health services and aids and appliances. For an eligible resident with this classification, allied health services and aids and appliances can only be provided under DVA arrangements under exceptional circumstances and with prior approval. Eligible residents with an ACFI classification that does not contain at least one 'H' (High) or two 'M' (Medium) scores have a lower level of care and can continue to access DVA-funded allied health services in the same way as they did before entering care. Please be aware that some allied health services and aids and appliances are not available under lower levels of care (as per the previous restrictions for 'low care').
<b>What occurs during the transition period preceding the ACFI classification?</b>	The ACFI classification is generally conducted between 28 and 56 days of a resident entering residential aged care. During the transition period before an ACFI classification is assigned, funding for all care and service needs are the responsibility of the residential aged care facility as outlined in Part 3 of Schedule 1 of the <i>Quality of Care Principles 2014</i> . If an eligible veteran or war widow has been receiving ongoing allied health services or aids and appliances prior to entering residential aged care, this can continue to occur under DVA arrangements through this transition period to ensure continuity of care. For example, this would include the ongoing provision of continence aids and the finalisation of an equipment request that commenced prior to the person entering care. New requests during the transition period will not be considered before an ACFI classification is assigned.
<b>Further Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DVA Aged Care - <a href="http://www.dva.gov.au/health_and_wellbeing/agedcare/Pages/index.aspx">http://www.dva.gov.au/health_and_wellbeing/agedcare/Pages/index.aspx</a></li> <li>• MyAgedCare - <a href="http://www.myagedcare.gov.au/">http://www.myagedcare.gov.au/</a></li> <li>• Department of Social Services - <a href="http://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/ageing-and-aged-care">http://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/ageing-and-aged-care</a></li> </ul>