

The Treatment Cycle – what you need to know



In our last edition of *e-news* you may have read about the Government's announcement to defer changes to the allied health treatment cycle until 1 October 2019. This has allowed DVA more time to work with our stakeholders to deliver the changes.

What are the changes?

As of 1 October, referrals from GPs to allied health providers will be valid for up to 12 sessions or one year, whichever comes first.

Will this affect you?

These changes will affect DVA cardholders who access allied health services. These services include chiropractors, psychologists, dietitians, osteopaths, social workers and so on.

If you have a Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) Gold Card from DVA, the treatment cycle will not apply to you for exercise physiology and physiotherapy services only. For other allied health services, TPI Gold Card holders will be part of the treatment cycle.

Dental and optical services do not require a GP referral, and are not part of the treatment cycle. Referral arrangements between GPs and medical specialists (including surgeons and psychiatrists) will also remain unchanged.

What do I need to do from 1 October 2019?

If you are currently receiving allied health treatment, you can continue to see your allied health provider up to 12 more times after 1 October under your existing referral. After these 12 sessions you will need to go back to your GP.

All new referrals from 1 October onwards will be part of the new treatment cycle arrangements.

How many treatment cycles can I have?

You may have as many treatment cycles as your GP thinks you need. This means at the

end of the 12 sessions, you will need to go back to the GP to review your progress. If the GP determines further treatment is clinically necessary they will refer you for another 12 sessions.

You can also get treatment from different types of allied health providers at the same time. For example, you can have a treatment cycle with an occupational therapist, a speech pathologist and a podiatrist at the same time.

More information

Please visit the [Treatment Cycle page of the DVA website](#).