

# VA Notes: Better Understanding, Better Care

Giving Veterans easy access to their health information is an important step. It can help involve patients in their own health care. In January 2013, VA joined the OpenNotes movement, becoming the first nationwide health care system to offer patient access to all clinical notes. Veterans with a Premium My HealthVet account can see their clinical visit notes (VA Notes) written after January 1, 2013. VA Notes are part of Blue Button information in "Download My Data". Our first look at what Veterans think of VA Notes shows that patients think VA Notes is an important feature. This may be an important change in having more patient-centered care. When we asked early adopters about their experience in accessing the VA Notes, this is what they said:

92%



Visit notes (VA Notes) will help me understand my health and medical conditions better.

92%



Visit notes will help me remember the plan for my care better.

91%



Visit notes will help me take better care of myself.

91%



Visit notes will make me feel more in control of my health care.

89%



Visit notes will help me be better prepared for clinic visits.

80%



Visit notes will help me do a better job taking my medications as prescribed.

The My HealthVet portal ([www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov)) is a suite of tools that enables Veterans to create a free web-based Personal Health Record, access health education resources, and refill VA prescriptions. All VA patients are eligible to complete a one-time process of identity authentication to obtain a premium My HealthVet account. VA patients with a Premium account can access data from the VA electronic health record and communicate electronically with their health care team using Secure Messaging. VA Notes is accessible through the Blue Button feature "Download My Data", which allows Veterans to view, print, and download a single electronic file that contains their personal health information.

[Quick Guide to VA Notes](#)

[Upgrade Your My HealthVet Account](#)

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