

The VA Life Insurance Program, managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Insurance Service, offers life insurance products to Veterans, Service Members, and their families, including traumatic injury protection. The program encompasses both individual and group policies, with individual policies mainly for Veterans who served before October 8, 1940, and group policies for post-Vietnam Veterans and active duty members. The VA administers seven life insurance programs: United States Government Life Insurance (USGLI), National Service Life Insurance (NSLI), Veterans Special Life Insurance (VSLI), Veterans Reopened Insurance (VRI), Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI), Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI), and Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife). Notably, five individual policies are closed to new enrollment, including USGLI, NSLI, VSLI, VRI, and S-DVI, with the NSLI program allowing a maximum coverage of \$10,000 and providing appeal rights for policyholders. The S-DVI program, which assists Veterans with service-connected disabilities, ceased new enrollments as of December 31, 2022.

Premium payments can be made through various methods, including direct payment, military retirement allotments, or deductions from VA benefits, with options for quarterly, semi-annual, or annual payments, and discounts for advance payments. A 31-day grace period is provided for premium payments, during which any unpaid premium will be deducted from the claim amount if the insured dies. Policyholders may apply for a waiver of premiums if totally disabled, and dividends are available based on the insurance type and duration, with options for cash payments, credits, or purchasing additional insurance. The VA Insurance Service is responsible for issuing policies, collecting premiums, processing actions, paying claims, and evaluating program performance.

The policy allows for the purchase of additional paid-up insurance using a net single premium for specific policy types. Permanent plan policies build cash value, which can be withdrawn or borrowed against, affecting the cash surrender value and death benefit. Policyholders can apply for cash value after one year of premium payments and can take loans against the cash value, subject to

certain limits and interest rates. If a permanent plan policy lapses after three months, it converts to term insurance based on the net cash value, and policyholders can opt for reduced paid-up insurance. Term insurance can be converted to a permanent plan without health evidence, and dividends can be used to purchase paid-up additional insurance.

Beneficiaries can be updated online or via VA Form 29-336, and the insured can change beneficiaries without consent. Settlement options for policy proceeds include lump sum payments or installment plans, with specific rules for deceased beneficiaries. The policy emphasizes the importance of proper beneficiary designation and payment options, with a single designation applying to all policies unless specified otherwise. Legislation allows payments to contingent beneficiaries if the principal beneficiary does not claim within one year, and if neither claims within two years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may pay another person deemed entitled. Claims require specific documentation, including death certificates, and can be submitted electronically or by mail.

The VALife program offers guaranteed acceptance whole life coverage for service-connected veterans aged 80 and under, with a two-year waiting period for full coverage. The VMLI program provides financial protection for eligible Veterans' home mortgages, with coverage amounts up to \$200,000, payable to the mortgage lender upon the insured's death. Premium rates were recently reduced, and coverage can be canceled under certain conditions. Claims for VMLI require notification to the VA with necessary documentation.

The SGLI program provides low-cost group life insurance to active duty military personnel, with a maximum coverage of \$500,000 and automatic coverage upon entry into active duty. The SGLI Disability Extension allows totally disabled members to apply for an extension of coverage for up to two years. Beneficiaries can select any individual, and specific rules apply for notification of spouse if opting out of SGLI. The Accelerated Benefits Option allows terminally ill members to access a

portion of their death benefits early. Family coverage is available for spouses and children, with specific provisions for coverage termination and conversion.

The policy outlines claims processes for SGLI and VGLI, requiring specific forms for death claims and accelerated benefits. The TSGLI program covers traumatic injuries with benefits ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000, with exclusions for certain injuries. VGLI allows service members to convert SGLI to renewable term insurance post-separation, with specific eligibility and premium conditions. The policy also details protections under the SCRA for service members' life insurance policies during active duty. For further assistance, the VA provides resources, including a Life Insurance Needs Calculator, available on their website.