

NEW YORK STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
40 NORTH PEARL STREET  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12243-0001

PATRICIA A. STEVENS  
Deputy Commissioner  
Division of Temporary Assistance

July 22, 1997

Dear WMS Coordinator:

The purpose of this letter is to provide local districts additional information/clarification concerning the definitions of veterans, in addition to the use of Veteran Indicator Codes as described in Attachment I of the "Dear WMS Coordinator" letter, dated June 6, 1997.

1. First, and foremost, a veteran is an individual who has been discharged from US military duty under other than Dishonorable conditions. A dishonorably discharged individual is NOT a veteran. Therefore, code "9" (Non-Veteran) should be used to identify dishonorably discharged individuals, as well as those individuals who never served in the US Armed Forces.
2. Vietnam-Era Veteran (Code 2) is to be used for any veteran who served during the Vietnam era (December 22, 1961 through May 5, 1975), whether or not they were actually in Vietnam.
3. Combat Theater Veteran (Code 4) applies to all veterans who served during World War I, World War II, or the Korean War, whether or not the veteran was actually involved in combat duty overseas. Code 4 would also be used for veterans who were involved in Beirut, Bosnia, Granada, Lebanon, the Persian Gulf, or Somalia, ONLY IF the veteran was physically there.

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For questions regarding the information/clarifications contained in this letter, please contact Ellen Nesbitt at 1-800-343-8859, extension 3-0681.

Sincerely,

**WD**

Wendy Dmitri  
Director, TA/WMS Program Operations

**J EJ**

Joan E. Johnson, Director  
Bureau of Medicaid Systems  
Office of Medicaid Management

cc: Commissioner  
IM Director  
FS Director  
MA Director  
Staff Development Coordinator