

Estimated Average Time Per Respondent: 5 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 2,500.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

Request For Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: November 23, 2005.

Glenn Kirkland,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Copayment for Medication

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is hereby giving notice that the medication copayment rate will be increased from \$7.00 to \$8.00. The total amount of copayments in a calendar year for a veteran enrolled in one of the priority groups 2 through 6 shall not exceed the new cap of \$960.00. These increases are based on calculations based on the Prescription Drug component of the Medical Consumer Price Index and as provided in Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, part 17, § 17.110.

DATES: These rates are effective January 1, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tony Guagliardo, Director, Business Policy (163), Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 254-0406. (This is not a toll-free number.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: VA is required by law to charge certain veterans a copayment for each 30-day or less supply of medication provided on an outpatient basis (other than medication administered during treatment) for treatment of a non-service connected condition. Public Law 106-

117, The Veterans' Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act, gives the Secretary of Veterans Affairs authority to increase the medication copayment amount and to establish a calendar year cap on the amount of medication copayments charged to veterans enrolled in priority groups 2 through 6. When veterans reach the calendar year cap, they will continue to receive medications without additional copayments for that calendar year.

Formula for Calculating the Medication Copayment Amount

Each calendar year beginning after December 31, 2002, the Prescription Drug component of the Medical Consumer Price Index of the previous September 30 is divided by the index as of September 30, 2001. The ratio is then multiplied by the original copayment amount of \$7.00. The copayment amount of the new calendar year is then rounded down to the whole dollar amount. Until September 30, 2005, there have been no changes in this ratio which resulted in an increase of VA's medication copayment rates.

Computation of Calendar Year 2006 Medication Copayment Amount

Prescription Drug Medical Consumer Price Index as of September 30, 2005 = 351.8

Prescription Drug Medical Consumer Price Index as of September 30, 2001 = 304.8

Index = 351.8 divided by 304.8 = 1.1542 (INDEX) × \$7 = \$8.08

Copayment amount = \$8.00

Dated: November 23, 2005.

R. James Nicholson,

Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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