

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Dwight Wolkow, International Portfolio Investment Data Systems, Department of the Treasury, Room 5422 MT, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20220. In view of possible delays in mail delivery, you may also wish to send a copy to Mr. Wolkow by email (*comments2TIC@do.treas.gov*) or FAX (202-622-2009). Mr. Wolkow can also be reached by telephone (202-622-1276).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Copies of the proposed form and instructions are available at Part II of the Treasury International Capital (TIC) Forms Web page "Forms SHL/SHLA & SHC/SHCA", at: <https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/data-chart-center/tic/Pages/forms-sh.aspx#shc>. The proposed forms and instructions are unchanged from the previous survey that was conducted as of December 31, 2015 (SHCA(2015)), except that (a) the "who must report" section of the instructions is designed for a benchmark survey, and (b) the "Current Actions" below are included in the instructions. Requests for additional information should be directed to Mr. Wolkow.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Treasury International Capital (TIC) Form SHC/SHCA "U.S. Ownership of Foreign Securities, including Selected Money Market Instruments."

*OMB Control Number:* 1505-0146.

*Abstract:* Form SHC/SHCA is part of the Treasury International Capital (TIC) reporting system, which is required by law (22 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*; E.O. 11961; 31 CFR 129) and is used to conduct annual surveys of U.S. residents' ownership of foreign securities for portfolio investment purposes. These data are used by the U.S. Government in the formulation of international financial and monetary policies, and for the computation of the U.S. balance of payments accounts and of the U.S. international investment position. These data are also used to provide information to the public and to meet international reporting commitments. The SHC/SHCA survey is part of an internationally coordinated effort under the auspices of the International Monetary Fund to improve data on securities worldwide. Most of the major industrial and financial countries conduct similar surveys.

The data collection includes large benchmark surveys conducted every five years, and smaller annual surveys conducted in the non-benchmark years. The data collected under an annual survey are used in conjunction with the

results of the preceding benchmark survey to make economy-wide estimates for that non-benchmark year. Currently, the determination of who must report in the annual surveys is based primarily on the data submitted during the preceding benchmark survey. The data requested in the annual survey will generally be the same as requested in the preceding benchmark report. Form SHC is used for the benchmark survey of all significant U.S.-resident custodians and end-investors regarding U.S. ownership of foreign securities. In non-benchmark years Form SHCA is used for the annual surveys of primarily the very largest U.S.-resident custodians and end-investors.

*Current Actions:* No changes in the forms will be made from the previous survey that was conducted as of December 31, 2015. The proposed changes in the instructions are: (1) An increase in the exemption level (the threshold for reporting) for filing schedules 2 and 3 under this mandatory survey will be increased from \$100 million to \$200 million; and (2) some clarifications of existing instructions may be made in the instructions. The changes will reduce the total burden on data filers.

*Type of Review:* Revision of currently approved data collection.

*Affected Public:* Business/Financial Institutions.

*Form:* TIC SHC/SHCA, Schedules 1, 2 and 3 (1505-0146).

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* An annual average (over five years) of 306, but this varies widely from about 785 in benchmark years (once every five years) to about 190 in other years (four out of every five years).

*Estimated Average Time per Respondent:* An annual average (over five years) of about 174 hours, but this will vary widely from respondent to respondent. (a) In the year of a benchmark survey, which is conducted once every five years, it is estimated that exempt respondents will require an average of 17 hours; custodians of securities providing security-by-security information will require an average of 361 hours, but this figure will vary widely for individual custodians; end-investors providing security-by-security information will require an average of 121 hours; and end-investors and custodians employing U.S. custodians will require an average of 41 hours. (b) In a non-benchmark year, which occurs four years out of every five years: Custodians of securities providing security-by-security information will require an average of 546 hours (because only the largest U.S.-resident custodians will report), but this figure will vary

widely for individual custodians; end-investors providing security-by-security information will require an average of 146 hours; and reporters entrusting their foreign securities to U.S. custodians will require an average of 49 hours. The exemption level, which applies only in benchmark years when filing schedules 2 or 3 or both, for custodians and for end-investors is the holding of less than \$200 million in reportable foreign securities owned by U.S. residents. For schedule 2, end-investors should exclude securities that are held with their unaffiliated U.S.-resident custodians.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* An annual average (over five years) of 53,260 hours.

*Frequency of Response:* Annual.

*Request for Comments:* Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. The public is invited to submit written comments concerning: (a) Whether the Survey is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Office of International Affairs within the Department of the Treasury, including whether the information collected will have practical uses; (b) the accuracy of the above estimate of the burdens; (c) ways to enhance the quality, usefulness and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the reporting and/or record keeping burdens on respondents, including the use of information technologies to automate the collection of the data requested; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs of operation, maintenance and purchase of services to provide the information requested.

**Dwight Wolkow,**

*Administrator, International Portfolio Investment Data Systems.*

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**BILLING CODE 4810-25-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Annual Pay Ranges for Physicians and Dentists of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** As required by the "Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Personnel Enhancement Act of 2004" (Pub. L. 108-445, dated December 3, 2004) the Department of

Veterans Affairs (VA) is hereby giving notice of annual pay ranges for Veterans Health Administration (VHA) physicians and dentists as prescribed by the Secretary for Department-wide applicability. These annual pay ranges are intended to enhance the flexibility of the Department to recruit, develop, and retain the most highly qualified providers to serve our Nation's Veterans and maintain a standard of excellence in the VA health care system.

**DATES:** *Effective Dates:* Annual pay ranges are effective November 13, 2016.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Debra Doty, HR Specialist/Title 38 Program Manager, Compensation and Classification Service (055), Office of Human Resources Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, (757) 291-6514. (This is not a toll-free number.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under 38 U.S.C. 7431(e)(1)(A), not less often than once every two years, the Secretary must prescribe for Department-wide applicability the minimum and maximum amounts of annual pay that may be paid to VHA physicians and dentists. Further, 38 U.S.C. 7431(e)(1)(B) allows the Secretary to prescribe separate minimum and maximum amounts of pay for a specialty or assignment. In construction of the annual pay ranges, 38 U.S.C. 7431(c)(4)(A) requires the consultation of two or more national surveys of pay for physicians and dentists, as applicable, whether prepared by private, public, or quasi-public entities in order to make a general assessment of the range of pays payable to physicians and dentists. Lastly, 38 U.S.C. 7431(e)(1)(C) states amounts prescribed under paragraph 7431(e) shall be published in the **Federal Register**, and shall not take effect until at least 60 days after date of publication.

### Background

The "Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Personnel Enhancement Act of 2004" (Pub. L. 108-445) was signed by the President on December 3, 2004. The major provisions of the law established a new pay system for Veterans Health Administration (VHA) physicians and dentists consisting of base pay, market pay, and performance pay. While the base pay component is set by statute, market pay is intended to reflect the recruitment and retention needs for the specialty or assignment of a particular physician or dentist at a facility. Further, performance pay is intended to recognize the achievement of specific goals and performance

objectives prescribed annually. These three components create a system of pay that is driven by both market indicators and employee performance, while recognizing employee tenure in VHA.

### Discussion

VA identified and utilized salary survey data sources which most closely represent VA comparability in the areas of practice setting, employment environment, and hospital/health care system. The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), Hospital and Healthcare Compensation Service (HHCS), Sullivan, Cotter, and Associates (S&C), Medical Group Management Association (MGMA), and the Survey of Dental Practice published by the American Dental Association (ADA) were collectively utilized as benchmarks from which to prescribe annual pay ranges for physicians and dentists across the scope of assignments/specialties within the Department. While aggregating the data, a preponderance of weight was given to those surveys which most directly resembled the environment of the Department.

In constructing annual pay ranges to accommodate the more than 40 physician and dentist specialties that currently exist in the VA system, VA continued the practice of grouping specialties into consolidated pay ranges. This allows VA to use multiple sources that yield a high number of physician salary data which helps to minimize disparities and aberrations that may surface from data involving smaller numbers of physicians and dentists for comparison and from sample change from year to year. Thus, by aggregating multiple survey sources into like groupings, greater confidence exists that the average compensation reported is truly representative. In addition, aggregation of data provides for a large enough sample size and provides pay ranges with maximum flexibility for pay setting for the more than 25,000 VHA physicians and dentists.

In developing the annual pay ranges, a few distinctive principles were factored into the compensation analysis of the data. The first principle is to ensure that both the minimum and maximum salary is at a level that accommodates special employment situations, from fellowships and medical research career development awards to Nobel Laureates, high-cost areas, and internationally renowned clinicians. The second principle is to provide ranges large enough to accommodate career progression, geographic differences, sub-specialization, and other special factors.

Forty-one clinical specialties were reviewed against available, relevant private sector data. The specialties are grouped into four clinical pay ranges that reflect comparable complexity in salary, recruitment, and retention considerations. Two additional pay ranges apply to VHA Chiefs of Staff and physicians and dentists in executive level administrative assignments at the facility, network, or headquarters level.

PAY TABLE 1—CLINICAL SPECIALTY

Tier level	Minimum	Maximum
TIER 1 .....	\$100,957	\$225,000
TIER 2 .....	110,000	234,000
TIER 3 .....	120,000	262,000

PAY TABLE 1—COVERED CLINICAL SPECIALTIES

Endocrinology  
Endodontics  
General Practice—Dentistry  
Geriatrics  
Infectious Diseases  
Internal Medicine/Primary Care/Family Practice  
Palliative Care  
Periodontics  
Preventive Medicine  
Prosthodontics  
Rheumatology  
All other specialties or assignments that do not require a specific specialty

PAY TABLE 2—CLINICAL SPECIALTY

Tier level	Minimum	Maximum
TIER 1 .....	\$100,957	\$264,000
TIER 2 .....	115,000	292,000
TIER 3 .....	130,000	320,000

PAY TABLE 2—COVERED CLINICAL SPECIALTIES

Allergy and Immunology  
Hospitalist  
Nephrology  
Neurology  
Pathology  
PM&R/SCI  
Psychiatry

PAY TABLE 3—CLINICAL SPECIALTY

Tier level	Minimum	Maximum
TIER 1 .....	\$100,957	\$348,000
TIER 2 .....	120,000	365,000
TIER 3 .....	135,000	385,000

PAY TABLE 3—COVERED CLINICAL SPECIALTIES

Anesthesiology (Pain Management)

PAY TABLE 3—COVERED CLINICAL SPECIALTIES—Continued

Cardiology (Non-Invasive)  
Emergency Medicine  
Gynecology  
Hematology-Oncology  
Nuclear Medicine  
Ophthalmology  
Oral Surgery  
Pulmonary

PAY TABLE 4—CLINICAL SPECIALTY

Tier level	Minimum	Maximum
TIER 1 .....	\$100,957	\$400,000
TIER 2 .....	125,000	400,000

PAY TABLE 4—COVERED CLINICAL SPECIALTIES

Anesthesiology  
Cardiology (Invasive/Non-Interventional)  
Cardio-Thoracic Surgery  
Critical Care  
Dermatology  
Dermatology (MOHS)  
Gastroenterology  
General Surgery  
Interventional Cardiology  
Interventional Radiology  
Neurosurgery  
Orthopedic Surgery  
Otolaryngology  
Plastic Surgery  
Radiology (Diagnostic)  
Radiation Oncology  
Urology  
Vascular Surgery

PAY TABLE 5—CHIEF OF STAFF

Tier level	Minimum	Maximum
TIER 1 .....	\$150,000	\$309,000
TIER 2 .....	145,000	289,000
TIER 3 .....	140,000	270,000

PAY TABLE 5—COVERED ASSIGNMENTS

VHA Chiefs of Staff  
Deputy Chiefs of Staff (Complexity Level 1a and 1b facilities only)

PAY TABLE 6—EXECUTIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Tier level	Minimum	Maximum
TIER 1 .....	\$145,000	\$265,000
TIER 2 .....	145,000	245,000
TIER 3 .....	130,000	235,000

PAY TABLE 6—COVERED EXECUTIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Principal Deputy, Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Chief Officer, Network Director, Medical Center Director, Network Chief Officer, Executive Director, Assistant Under Secretary for Health, VA Central Office Chief Consultant, National Director, National Program Manager and other VA Central Office Physician/Dentist.

**Signing Authority**

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee, approved this document and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Gina S. Farrisee, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs, approved this document August 22, 2016, for publication.

Dated: August 22, 2016.

**Jeffrey Martin,**

*Office Program Manager, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

[OMB Control No. 2900-0011]

**Proposed Information Collection (Application for Reinstatement—Insurance Lapsed More Than 6 Months (29-352) and Application for Reinstatement—Non Medical Comparative Health Statement (29-353)) Activity: Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before October 31, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov) or to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administrations (20M33), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420 or email to [nancy.kessinger@va.gov](mailto:nancy.kessinger@va.gov). Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900-0011” in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through FDMS.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 632-8924 or FAX (202) 632-8925.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-21), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506 (c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

*Title:* Application for Reinstatement—Insurance Lapsed More Than 6 Months (VA Form 29-352) and Application for Reinstatement—Non Medical Comparative Health Statement (VA Form 29-353).

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0011.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* These forms are used by veterans who are requesting a reinstatement of their lapsed life insurance policies.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 1,125 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:* 22.5 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 3000.