

Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Level II codes.

Section 17.101(a)(2) provides that the actual charge amounts at individual VA medical facilities based on these methodologies and the data sources used for calculating those actual charge amounts will either be published as a notice in the **Federal Register** or will be posted on the internet site of the Veterans Health Administration Office of Community Care's website at [https://www.va.gov/communitycare/revenue\\_ops/payer\\_rates.asp](https://www.va.gov/communitycare/revenue_ops/payer_rates.asp).

Certain charges are hereby updated as stated in this notice and will be effective on January 1, 2019.

In cases where VA has not established charges for medical care or services provided or furnished at VA expense (by either VA or non-VA providers) under other provisions or regulations, the method for determining VA's charges is set forth at 38 CFR 17.101(a)(8).

Based on the methodologies set forth in § 17.101, this notice provides an update to charges for 2019 HCPCS Level II and Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes. Charges are also being updated based on more recent versions of data sources for the following charge types: Partial hospitalization facility charges; outpatient facility charges; physician and other professional charges, including professional charges for anesthesia services and dental services; pathology and laboratory charges; observation care facility charges; ambulance and other emergency transportation charges; and charges for durable medical equipment, drugs, injectables, and other medical services, items, and supplies identified by HCPCS Level II codes. As of the date of this notice, the actual charge amounts at individual VA medical facilities based on the methodologies in § 17.101 will be posted on the VHA Office of Community Care's website at [https://www.va.gov/communitycare/revenue\\_ops/payer\\_rates.asp](https://www.va.gov/communitycare/revenue_ops/payer_rates.asp) under the heading "Reasonable Charges Data Tables" and identified as "v3.25 Data Tables (Outpatient and Professional)."

The list of data sources used for calculating the actual charge amounts listed above also will be posted on the VHA Office of Community Care's website under the heading "Reasonable Charges Data Sources" and identified as "Reasonable Charges v3.25 Data Sources (Outpatient and Professional) (PDF)."

Acute inpatient facility charges and skilled nursing facility/sub-acute inpatient facility charges remain the same as set forth in the notice published in the **Federal Register** on September 19, 2018 (83 FR 47412).

We are also updating the list of VA medical facility locations. The list of VA medical facility locations, including the first three digits of their zip codes as well as provider-based/non-provider-based designations, will be posted on the VHA Office of Community Care's website under the heading "VA Medical Facility Locations" and identified as "v3.25 (Jan19)."

As indicated in 38 CFR 17.101(m), when VA provides or furnishes prescription drugs not administered during treatment, "charges billed separately for such prescription drugs will consist of the amount that equals the total of the actual cost to VA for the drugs and the national average of VA administrative costs associated with dispensing the drugs for each prescription." Section 17.101(m) includes the methodology for calculating the national average administrative cost for prescription drug charges not administered during treatment.

VA determines the amount of the national average administrative cost annually for the prior fiscal year (October through September) and then applies the charge at the start of the next calendar year. The national average administrative drug cost for calendar year 2019 is \$17.66. This change will be posted on the VHA Office of Community Care's website at [https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/revenue\\_ops/admin\\_costs.asp](https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/revenue_ops/admin_costs.asp) under the heading "CY 2019 Average Administrative Cost for Prescriptions."

Consistent with § 17.101, the national average administrative cost, the updated data, and supplementary tables containing the changes described in this notice will be posted online, as indicated in this notice. This notice will be posted on the VHA Office of Community Care's website at [https://www.va.gov/communitycare/revenue\\_ops/payer\\_rates.asp](https://www.va.gov/communitycare/revenue_ops/payer_rates.asp) under the heading "Reasonable Charges Rules, Notices, & **Federal Register**" and identified as "v3.25 **Federal Register** Notice 01/01/19 (Outpatient and Professional), and National Administrative Cost (PDF)." The national average administrative cost, updated data, and supplementary tables containing the changes described will be effective until changed by a subsequent **Federal Register** notice.

#### Signing Authority

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs 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. Robert L. Wilkie,

Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, approved this document on November 29, 2018, for publication.

Dated: November 29, 2018.

**Jeffrey M. Martin,**

*Assistant Director, 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-NEW]

### Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review: VA Educational Assistance Program Feedback

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden; it includes the actual data collection instrument.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before January 4, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information through [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov), or to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attn: VA Desk Officer; 725 17th St. NW, Washington, DC 20503 or sent through electronic mail to [oira\\_submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:oira_submission@omb.eop.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-NEW" in any correspondence.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Danny S. Green, Acting Department Clearance Officer—OI&T (005R1B), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 421-1354 or email [Danny.Green2@va.gov](mailto:Danny.Green2@va.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-NEW" in any correspondence.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Authority:* Public Law 114-315 Section 414; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521.

*Title:* VA Educational Assistance Program Feedback.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-NEW.  
*Type of Review:* New collection.

*Abstract:* Public Law 114–315 Section 414 requires VA to obtain feedback from individuals using their entitlement to educational assistance under the educational assistance programs administered by the Secretary of Veteran Affairs. Program beneficiaries are asked to provide feedback on the information required by Public Law 114–315 Section 414. The information collected is from individuals who have used or are using their entitlement to education assistance under chapters 30, 32, 33, and 35 of title 38, United States Code, to pursue a program of education or training. The feedback from the

survey assesses the outcomes, situations, and decisions by the beneficiaries of the educational assistance chapters under title 38 United States Code.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published at Vol. 83, No. 188, Thursday, September 27, 2018, page 48897–48898.

*Affected Public:* Individuals and Households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 833 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:* 5 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* Once.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 10,000.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Cynthia D. Harvey-Pryor**,  
*Government Information Specialist,*  
*Department of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2018–26377 Filed 12–4–18; 8:45 am]

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