

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 2306(f) of title 38, United States Code, authorizes VA's National Cemetery Administration to furnish a casket or urn for interment in a VA national cemetery or a VA-funded state or tribal veterans' cemetery of the unclaimed remains of veterans for whom VA cannot identify a next of kin, and determines that sufficient financial resources for the furnishing of a casket or urn for burial are not available. VA established regulations to administer this authority as a reimbursement benefit in 38 CFR 38.628.

In accordance with the regulation, reimbursement for a claim received in any CY will not exceed the average cost of a 20-gauge metal casket or a durable plastic urn during the fiscal year (FY) preceding the CY of the claim, as determined by VA.

Average costs are based on market price analysis and previous year actual reimbursements for 20-gauge metal caskets, designed to contain human remains, with a gasketed seal, and external rails or handles. The same analysis is completed for durable plastic urns, designed to contain human remains, which include a secure closure to contain the cremated remains.

Using this approach, in FY 2021, the average costs were determined to be \$1,362.00 for caskets and \$120.00 for urns. Accordingly, the maximum reimbursement rates payable for qualifying interments occurring during CY 2022 are \$1,362.00 for caskets and \$120.00 for urns.

#### Signing Authority

Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, approved this document on December 20, 2021, 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.

#### Luvenia Potts,

*Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0629]

### Agency Information Collection Activity: Application for Extended Care Services

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Veterans Health Administration (VHA), 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 February 25, 2022.

**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 Janel Keyes, Office of Regulations, Appeals, and Policy (10BRAP), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420 or email to [Janel.Keyes@va.gov](mailto:Janel.Keyes@va.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0629" in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through FDMS.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Maribel Aponte, Office of Enterprise and Integration, Data Governance Analytics (008), 1717 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20006, (202) 266-4688 or email [maribel.aponte@va.gov](mailto:maribel.aponte@va.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0629" in any correspondence.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA of 1995, 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, VHA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VHA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VHA'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.

*Authority:* Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521.

*Title:* Application for Extended Care Services, VA Form 10-10EC.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0629.

*Type of Review:* Reinstatement of a previously approved collection.

*Abstract:* Title 38 U.S.C. Chapter 17 authorizes VA to provide hospital care, medical services, domiciliary care, and nursing home care to eligible Veterans. Title 38 U.S.C. 1705 requires VA to design, establish and operate a system of annual patient enrollment in accordance with a series of stipulated priorities. A consequence of this is that many groups of Veterans who are in a lower priority group (WWI Veterans, Veterans with disabilities rated as 0% service-connected seeking treatment for other than their service-connected conditions, Veterans exposed to a toxic substance, radiation, or environmental hazard and nonservice-connected Veterans) may request that they be allowed to be income tested in order to gain a higher priority. Title 38 U.S.C. 1722 establishes eligibility assessment procedures for cost-free VA medical care, based on income levels, which will determine whether nonservice-connected and 0% service-connected non-compensable Veterans are able to defray the necessary expenses of care for nonservice-connected conditions. Title 38 U.S.C. 1722A establishes the eligibility assessment procedures, based on income levels, for determining Veterans' eligibility for cost-free medications and Title 38 U.S.C. 1710B defines the procedures for establishing eligibility for cost-free Extended Care benefits. Title 38 U.S.C § 1729 authorizes VA to recover from Veterans' health insurance carriers the cost of care furnished for their nonservice-connected conditions.

VA Form 10-10EC, Application for Extended Care Services, is used to collect financial information necessary to determine a Veteran's copayment obligation for extended care services, also known as long term care (LTC).

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 3,000 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:* 90 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* Once annually.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 2,000.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Maribel Aponte,**

*VA PRA Clearance Officer, Office of Enterprise and Integration/Data Governance Analytics, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

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