

"HONORING THE DEAD BY SERVING THE LIVING."



# VFW Post 10295

Bowling Green, Virginia



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## VA Announces Use of Standard Payment Rates for Some Non-VA Care

WASHINGTON (Dec. 16, 2010) - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today it will begin using Medicare's standard payment rates for certain medical procedures performed by non-VA providers on Feb. 16, 2011.

**"This regulation will have no impact on the Veterans we care for,"** said VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. Robert A. Petzel. "VA will now have the ability to better plan budgets and place more money into access to health care for the Veterans that VA is honored to serve."

The new adjustment was made in federal regulations and will affect the following treatments VA provides to Veterans through contracted care: ambulatory surgical center care, anesthesia, clinical laboratory, hospital outpatient per-

spective payment systems, and end stage renal disease (ESRD).

Veterans who are eligible for care will continue to receive the uninterrupted care they need and have earned. Non-VA doctors and facilities will still get paid for services they provide to eligible Veterans but at rates set by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Prospective Payment Systems (PPS) and Fee Schedules. Existing contracts will not be affected and the rule allows for new contracts using the new rates.

Savings of approximately \$1.8 billion over five years will allow VA to continue to invest in such innovative programs as a wearable artificial kidney, home dialysis and expanding access through stand-alone

*(See VA page 3)*



Come play BINGO at the post every Thursday at 7 p.m.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

For the first time in many years our membership is growing. As of January 4, we have 65 life members, 15 continuous members, eight new members and two reinstatements for a total of 90 members which is 105% more than last year's total membership, but we still have a ways to go. Thirteen of last year's members decided not to renew their membership this year. That's disappointing because the loss of 13 members makes it just that much harder to help out the veteran's in need in our community. I hope those 13 former members reconsider and renew this year.

**Next Membership Meeting  
Is Tuesday, Jan. 11, at 7 p.m.  
@ the Post. Hope to see you there.**



# Combat Support Groups

For January and February 2011

*Open to anyone who has experienced combat:*

- **OIF and OEF combat veterans**
- **Vietnam and Desert Storm combat veterans**
- **Combat veterans with any discharge status**
- **Reserve and National Guard**
- **Military contractors deployed in a combat theatre**

**11 January/1800 hrs**

**1 February/1800**

**18 January/1800 hrs**

**8 February/1800**

**25 January/1800 hrs**

**15 February/1800**

**22 February/1800**

**All group Meetings at the Fredericksburg Baptist Church Room PA-113**

**1019 Princess Anne Street (use the Princess Anne Entrance)**

**Fredericksburg, VA**

**For More Information Please Contact:**

**Claude      540-842-2481      Peer Specialist**

**Kevin      540-273-4733      Peer Specialist**

**Or visit: [www.nvwawoundedwarrior.org/540-373-3223](http://www.nvwawoundedwarrior.org/540-373-3223) x 3085**



## VA Processes First Claims for New Agent Orange Presumptives

**New Program Speeds Approval for Vietnam Veterans,** WASHINGTON (Dec. 17, 2010) - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has decided more than 28,000 claims in the first six weeks of processing disability compensation applications from Vietnam Veterans with diseases related to exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange.

"With new technology and ongoing improvements, we are quickly removing roadblocks to processing benefits," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "We are also conducting significant outreach to Vietnam Veterans to encourage them to submit their completed application for this long-awaited benefit."

VA published a final regulation on Aug. 31 that makes Veterans who served in

the Republic of Vietnam and who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, ischemic heart disease, or a B-cell (or hairy-cell) leukemia eligible for health care and disability compensation benefits. With the expiration of the required 60-day congressional review on Oct. 30, VA is now able to process these claims.

Vietnam Veterans covered under the new policy are encouraged to file their claims through a new VA Web portal at [www.fastrack.va.gov](http://www.fastrack.va.gov) Vietnam Veterans are the first users of this convenient automated claims processing system.

If treated for these diseases outside of VA's health system, it is important for Veterans to gather medical evidence from their non-VA physicians. VA has made it easy for physicians to supply

the clinical findings needed to approve the claim through the new Web portal. These medical forms are also available at [www.vba.va.gov/disabilityexams](http://www.vba.va.gov/disabilityexams)

The portal guides Veterans through Web-based menus to capture information and medical evidence required for faster claims decisions.

While the new system currently is limited to these three disabilities, usage will expand soon to include claims for other conditions.

VA has begun collecting data that recaps its progress in processing claims for new Agent Orange benefits at [www.vba.va.gov/VBA/agentorange/reportcard/index.html](http://www.vba.va.gov/VBA/agentorange/reportcard/index.html)

## INTERNET ACCESS AVAILABLE AT THE POST

The government is going electronic. Most of the documents listed in the articles in this newsletter have internet links that allow you instant access to the information. Although the information is also available by contacting the sponsors directly, it can sometimes take weeks for the information to come by mail.

If you need help obtaining documents, finding information, or just want to browse the internet, come by the post and access our FREE high-speed Wi-Fi or use one of the computers. This service is available to all Veterans and their families at no cost.

The post is open every Thursday and Friday starting at 5 pm.

*(from VA page 1)*

clinics.

"Adopting CMS pricing methodology for these schedules and services will allow VA medical centers to use their resources more efficiently to meet Veterans' needs," said Gary Baker, VA's health administration chief business officer. "The adoption of Medicare rates will help en-

sure consistent, predictable medical costs, while also helping to control costs and expenditures."

The pricing methodology changes are a result of a rule change to 38 CFR 17.56, the federal regulation that governs VA when paying medical claims for Veterans treated in community facilities. The proposed rule was published on Feb. 18,

2010 and was opened for public comment April 19, 2010. The congressional review period for the final rule begins Dec. 17 and lasts 60 days.

VA is providing written notifications to Veterans and non-VA providers. As additional information becomes available, it will be posted to the VA's "Non-VA Purchased Care" Web site, [www.nonvacare.va.gov](http://www.nonvacare.va.gov).



### Post Officers

**Commander ..... Paul Pitts (pro tem)**

**Chaplain ..... Peter Swain**

**Quartermaster ..... Jim Koch**

**Judge Advocate..... Garrison Boyle**

**Senior Vice..... J. P. McGuire (pro tem)**

**Junior Vice..... Vacant**

**Trustees ..... George Bauserman, Ryan Ransome, J.D. Crabtree**

