

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**Information Collections Under OMB Review**

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.
ACTION: None.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has submitted to OMB the following proposals for the collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). This document lists the type of information collection and the following: (1) The title of the information collection, and the Department form number(s), if applicable; (2) a description of the need and its use; (3) who will be required or asked to respond; (4) an estimate of the total annual reporting hours, and recordkeeping burden, if applicable; (5) the estimated average burden hours per respondent; (6) the frequency of response; and (7) an estimated number of respondents.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the proposed information collections and supporting documents may be obtained from Trish Fineran, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M30), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-6886.

Comments and questions about the items on the list should be directed to VA's OMB Desk Officer, Joseph Lackey, NEOB, Room 10102, Washington, DC 20503, (202) 395-7316. Do not send requests for benefits to this address.

DATES: Comments on the information collections should be directed to the OMB Desk Officer on or before June 1, 1995.

Dated: April 24, 1995.

By direction of the Secretary.

Donald L. Neilson,

Director, Information Management Service.

Extension

1. Application for Reimbursement from Accrued Amounts Due a Deceased Beneficiary, VA form 21-601.

2. The form is used to file a claim for accrued benefits available at the time of the veteran's death. The information is used by Veterans Benefits Administration to determine the appropriate claimant eligible for accrued benefits.

3. Individuals or households.
4. 1,875 hours.
5. 30 minutes.
6. On occasion.
7. 3,750 respondents.

Extension

1. Report and Certification of Loan Disbursement, VA Form 26-1820.

2. This form is completed by lenders closing VA loans under the automatic or prior approval procedure subsequent to issuance of guaranty.

3. Individuals or households.
4. 150,000 hours.
5. 30 minutes.
6. On occasion.
7. 300,000 respondents.

Reinstatement

1. Application for Conversion, VA Form 29-0152.

2. The form is used by the insured to apply for conversion of a term policy to a permanent plan of insurance. The information is used by Veterans Benefits Administration to initiate the processing of the insured's request to convert his/her term insurance.

3. Individuals or households.
4. 1,125 hours.
5. 15 minutes.
6. On occasion.
7. 4,500 respondents.

Reinstatement

1. Designation of Beneficiary, VA Form 29-336.

2. The form is used by the insured to designate a beneficiary and select an optional settlement to be used when the insurance matures by death. The information is requested to determine the claimants eligibility to receive the proceeds.

3. Individuals or households.
4. 13,917 hours.
5. 10 minutes.
6. On occasion.
7. 83,500 respondents.

Reinstatement

1. Application of Surviving Spouse or Child for REPS Benefits (Restored Entitlement Program for Survivors), VA Form 21-8924.

2. The form is used by dependents of deceased veterans for the sole purpose of making a claim for REPS benefits. The information is used by Veterans Benefits Administration to determine whether the claimant is eligible for REPS benefits.

3. Individuals or households.
4. 2,500 hours.
5. 20 minutes.
6. On occasion.
7. 7,000 respondents.

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BILLING CODE 8320-01-M

Privacy Act of 1974; Report of Matching Programs

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

ACTION: Notice of renewal—VA/IRS Match Program.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA), intends to renew the computer matching program comparing Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Social Security Administration (SSA) income records with VA patient income data which is contained in the patient medical records.

The goal of these matches is to compare income, social security number, and employment status as reported to VHA with income records maintained by IRS and SSA. For the information of all concerned, a summary report of the VHA matching program describing the computer matches follows. In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552a(o)(2), copies of the computer matching report are being sent to both houses of Congress. These matches are expected to commence on or about May 1, 1995, but start no sooner than 30 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, or 40 days after copies of this notice and the agreement are submitted to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget. These matches may be extended by the involved Data Integrity Boards for a twelve month period provided all agencies involved certify to the Data Integrity Boards, within three months of the termination date of the original match, that the matching program will be conducted without change and the matching programs have been conducted in compliance with the original matching agreements. The matches will not continue past the legislative authorized date to obtain this information. However, expiration of this agreement is December 31, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Interested individuals may comment on the matches by writing to the Associate Chief Medical Director for Administration (161D), Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janice E. Wheeler (202) 273-6276, Program Analyst, Income Verification Match Policy Service.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Further information regarding the matching program is provided below. This information is required by Title 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(12), the Privacy Act of 1974, as

amended. A copy of this notice has been provided to both houses of Congress and the Office of Management and Budget.

Approved: April 25, 1995.

Jesse Brown,

Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Report of Matching Program

Department of Veterans Affairs Patient Medical Records With Income Records Maintained by the Internal Revenue Service and the Social Security Administration

a. *Authority:* Title 38, U.S.C. 5106 and 5317; Pub. L. 101-508 as amended by Pub. L. 102-568.

b. *Program Description:*

(1) Purpose: (a) the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA) plans to match the household income information contained in the medical records of certain nonservice-connected veterans, with the income records for those persons maintained by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA). Those nonservice-connected veterans subject to income verification matching are those veterans who are receiving VA medical care in a mandatory eligibility category due to a finding of low income subsequent to means testing.

(b) Currently, information about a veterans household income (i.e., veterans and spouses receipt of wage, self-employment and other income as well as employment status, health insurance coverage and number of dependents) is obtained when the veteran makes application for medical care at a VA medical care facility. The household income and dependent data is evaluated in a "means test" which takes into account deductions of certain income not counted as such for Veterans Health Administration eligibility purposes. Once a net income for the veteran is established, it is applied against means test thresholds, or levels of income establishing mandatory or discretionary eligibility for medical care. If the veteran's net income falls

below the applicable means test threshold, he or she is eligible for mandatory care (i.e., no-cost care); however, if the net income falls over the applicable threshold, the veteran is given a discretionary eligibility. Veterans who are eligible for discretionary care are provided care if the VA medical facility has the resources to treat discretionary veterans, and if the veteran agrees to make a co-payment for such care. The proposed matching programs will enable VA to verify the accuracy of reported income and employment status and therefore more accurately determine eligibility for medical care.

(2) *Procedures:* VA's Veterans Health Administration has established an Income Verification Match (IVM) Center. The IVM Center will electronically extract demographic and income data from each VA medical care facility's database on nonservice-connected veterans found eligible for mandatory care based solely on low income. The VHA IVM extract file will be matched against IRS and SSA income records. If a VHA record and SSA or IRS record match on social security number and name, the IVM Center will begin an extensive case development and verification process. This process will assure the validity of the matched cases by verifying the IRS/SSA reported income amount with the payer(s) and recipients of the income. Each veteran and/or spouse identified by the match will be contacted in order to notify the veteran and/or spouse of any income discrepancy identified by the match, to verify the discrepancy, and to advise him or her of potential changes to the veteran's medical care eligibility at the VA medical center, and the potential billing action for co-payments. Before any adverse action is taken, the individual(s) identified by the match will be given the opportunity to contest the findings. Where there are reasonable grounds to believe that there has been a violation of criminal laws, the matter will be referred for prosecution

consideration in accordance with existing VA policies.

c. *Records to be Matched:* The VA records involved in the match are patient medical records maintained in the "Patient Medical Record-VA (24VA136)" published at 40 FR 38095 (8/26/75) and amended at 40 FR 52125 (11/7/75), 41 FR 2881 (1/20/76), 41 FR 11631 (3/19/76), 42 FR 30557 (6/15/72), 44 FR 31058 (5/30/79), 45 FR 77220 (11/21/80), 46 FR 2766 (1/12/81), 47 FR 28522 (6/30/82), 47 FR 51841 (11/17/82), 50 FR 11610 (3/22/85), 51 FR 25968 (7/17/86), 51 FR 44406 (12/9/86), 52 FR 381 (1/5/87), 53 FR 49818 (12/13/90), 55 FR 5112 (2/13/90), 55 FR 37604 (9/12/90), 55 FR 42534 (10/19/90), 56 FR 1054 (1/10/91), 57 FR 28003 (6/23/92), 57 FR 4519 (10/1/92), 58 FR 29853 (5/24/93), 58 FR 40852 (7/30/93) and 58 FR 57674 (10/26/93). The IRS records are from the Wage and Information Returns (IRP) Master File, Privacy Act system Treas/IRS 22.061. The SSA records are from the Earnings Recording and Self-Employment Income system, HHS/SSA/OSR 09-60-0059.

d. *Period of Match:* The initial date exchanges are expected to begin 40 days after the matching agreements are signed by the Data Integrity Boards (DIB's) and Congressional Offices and OMB have been notified, and 30 days from the date of publication of notice in the **Federal Register** or 40 days from the date this notice is approved, whichever is later. These matches may be extended by the involved DIB's for a twelve-month period provided the agencies participating in the match certify to the DIB's, within three months of the termination date of the original match, that the matching program will be conducted without change and the matching programs have been conducted in compliance with the original matching agreements. The matches will not continue past the date legislative authority to obtain this information expires.

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