DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Reasonable Charges for Inpatient MS–DRGs and SNF Medical Services; V3.17, Fiscal Year 2016 Update

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document updates the acute inpatient and the skilled nursing facility/sub-acute inpatient facility charges. The updated charges are based on the 2016 Medicare severity diagnosis related groups (MS–DRGs).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Romona Greene, Chief Business Office (10NB), Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 382–2521. (This is not a toll free number.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 17.101 of Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) sets forth the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical regulations concerning “Reasonable Charges” for medical care or services provided or furnished by VA to a veteran: For a nonservice-connected disability for which the veteran is entitled to care (or the payment of expenses of care) under a health plan contract; for a nonservice-connected disability incurred incident to the Veteran’s employment and covered under a worker’s compensation law or plan that provides reimbursement or indemnification for such care and services; or, for a nonservice-connected disability incurred as a result of a motor vehicle accident in a State that requires automobile accident reparations insurance. The methodologies for establishing billed amounts for several types of charges are found in 38 CFR 17.101; however, this notice will only address the acute inpatient and the skilled nursing facility/sub-acute inpatient facility charges.

Based on the methodologies set forth in 38 CFR 17.101(b), this notice updates the acute inpatient facility charges that were based on the 2015 Medicare severity diagnosis related groups (MS–DRGs). Acute inpatient facility charges by MS–DRGs are posted on the Internet site of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Chief Business Office, currently at http://www.va.gov/CBO/apps/rates/index.asp, under the “Reasonable Charges Data Tables” section, v3.15 Inpatient Data Table, as Table A. This Table A corresponds to the Table A referenced in 79 FR 58048, September 26, 2014. Table A referenced in this notice is v3.17, which provides updated charges based on the 2016 MS–DRGs, and it will replace Table A posted on the Internet site of the VHA Chief Business Office.

Also, this document updates the skilled nursing facility/sub-acute inpatient facility all-inclusive per diem charge using the methodologies set forth in 38 CFR 17.101(c) and this charge is adjusted by a geographic area factor that is based on the location where the care is provided. See Table “N” Acute Inpatient and Table “O” Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) for the geographic area factors on the VHA Chief Business Office Web site under the v3.16 link in the “Reasonable Charges Data Tables” section, which is not updated by this notice. The skilled nursing facility/sub-acute inpatient facility per diem charge is posted on the Internet site of the VHA’s Chief Business Office, currently at http://www.va.gov/CBO/apps/rates/index.asp, under the “Reasonable Charges Data Tables” section, v3.15 as Table B. This Table B corresponds to the Table B referenced in 79 FR 58048, September 26, 2014. Table B referenced in this notice is v3.17, which provides an update to the all-inclusive nationwide skilled nursing facility/sub-acute inpatient facility per diem charge and will replace Table B posted on the Internet site of the VHA Chief Business Office.

The charges in this notice for acute inpatient and skilled nursing facility/sub-acute inpatient facility services are effective October 1, 2015.

This notice is retaining the table designations used for acute inpatient facility charges by MS–DRGs, which is posted on the Internet site of the VHA Chief Business Office, currently at http://www.va.gov/CBO/apps/rates/index.asp, under “Reasonable Charges Data Tables.” We also are retaining the table designation used for skilled nursing facility/sub-acute inpatient facility charges, which is also posted on the Internet site of the VHA Chief Business Office. Accordingly, the tables identified as being updated by this notice correspond to the applicable tables referenced in 79 FR 58048, September 26, 2014.

The list of data sources presented in Supplementary Table 1 will be posted on the Internet site of the VHA Chief Business Office, currently at http://www.va.gov/CBO/apps/rates/index.asp, under “Reasonable Charges Data Sources” section, v3.15, to reflect the updated data sources used to establish the updated charges described in this notice.

We have also updated the list of VA medical facility locations. As a reminder, in Supplementary Table 3, posted on the Internet site of the VHA Chief Business Office, currently at http://www.va.gov/CBO/apps/rates/index.asp, under the VA Medical Facility Locations, v3.16 (January, 2015), in the “VA Medical Facility Locations” section, we set forth the list of VA medical facility locations, which includes the first three digits of their zip codes and provider-based/non-provider-based designations.

Consistent with VA’s regulations, the updated data tables and supplementary tables containing the changes described in this notice will be posted on the Internet site of the VHA Chief Business Office, “Reasonable Charges (Rates) Information” Web page currently at http://www.va.gov/CBO/apps/rates/index.asp.
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Commission on Care; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C., App. 2, the Commission on Care gives notice that it will meet on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 at the Capital Hilton, 1001 16th Street NW., Washington, DC 20036. The meeting will convene at 8:30 a.m. and end at 5:30 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the Commission, as described in section 202 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA), is to examine the access of Veterans to health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and strategically examine how best to organize the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), locate health care resources, and deliver health care to Veterans during the next 20 years. In undertaking this assessment, the Commission will evaluate and assess the results of the Independent Assessment conducted by CMS Alliance to Modernize Healthcare (CAMH) in accordance with section 201 of VACAA.

On October 6, the Commission will hear from VHA and other Department officials as well as other experts on the feasibility, advisability, and cost implications of recommendations in the CAMH Independent Assessment.

No time will be allocated at this meeting for receiving oral presentations from the public. However, the public may submit written statements for the Commission’s review to Sharon Gilles, Designated Federal Officer, Commission on Care, 1575 I (Eye) Street NW., Suite 240, Washington, DC 20005, or email at sharon.gilles@va.gov. Any member of the public wanting to attend may contact Ms. Gilles.

Dated: September 16, 2015.
Sharon Gilles,
Designated Federal Officer, Commission on Care.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Veterans’ Advisory Committee on Education; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, that the Veterans’ Advisory Committee on Education will meet on October 21-22, 2015 at the American Council on Education (ACE) located at One Dupont Circle, Washington, DC 20004. On October 21, the meeting will be held in Conference Rooms A&B located on floor 1B. On October 22, the meeting will be held in the Kellogg Room on the 8th floor. The meeting session begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 5:00 p.m. on both days. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the administration of education and training programs for Veterans, Servicemen, Servicewomen, Reservists, and Dependents of Veterans under Chapters 30, 32, 33, 35, and 36 of title 38, and Chapter 1606 of title 10, United States Code.

The purpose of the meeting is to assist in the evaluation of existing GI Bill programs and services, review recent legislative and administrative changes to GI Bill benefits, and submit their recommendations to the Secretary.

On October 21st, the Committee will receive presentations about the administration of VA’s education and training programs. Oral statements will be heard from 3:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

On October 22nd, the Committee will review and summarize issues raised throughout the meeting and discuss Committee work groups and next steps.

The public may submit written statements for the Committee’s review to Mr. Barrett Y. Bogue, Designated Federal Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration (223D), 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420 or via email at Barrett.Bogue@va.gov. Any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting or seek additional information should contact Mr. Bogue at (202) 461-9800.

Dated: September 16, 2015.
Sharon Gilles,
Designated Federal Officer, Commission on Care.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

MyVA Federal Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2., that the MyVA Advisory Committee (MyAC) will meet October 14 and 15, 2015 at the Department of Veterans Affairs, James A. Haley Veterans Hospital, 13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., Tampa, FL 33612, and the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital Primary Care Annex, 13515 Lake Terrace Lane, Tampa, FL 33637.

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary, through the Executive Director, My VA Task Force Office regarding the My VA initiative and VA’s ability to rebuild trust with Veterans and other stakeholders, improve service delivery with a focus on Veteran outcomes, and set the course for longer-term excellence and reform of VA.

On October 14 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the Committee will convene a closed session in order to protect patient privacy as the Committee tours the VA Sunshine Healthcare Network, Patient...