

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION**Request for Applications; Tribal Issues Advisory Group**

AGENCY: United States Sentencing Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In view of an upcoming vacancy in the at-large membership of the Tribal Issues Advisory Group, the United States Sentencing Commission hereby invites any individual who is eligible to be appointed to the at-large membership of the Tribal Issues Advisory Group to apply. An applicant for membership in the Tribal Issues Advisory Group should apply by sending a letter of interest and resume to the Commission as indicated in the **ADDRESSES** section below. Application materials should be received by the Commission not later than November 19, 2018.

DATES: Application materials for the at-large membership of the Tribal Issues Advisory Group should be received not later than November 19, 2018.

ADDRESSES: An applicant for the at-large membership of the Tribal Issues Advisory Group should apply by sending a letter of interest and resume to the Commission by electronic mail or regular mail. The email address is pubaffairs@ussc.gov. The regular mail address is United States Sentencing Commission, One Columbus Circle NE, Suite 2-500, South Lobby, Washington, DC 20002-8002, Attention: Public Affairs—TIAG Membership.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christine Leonard, Director, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs, (202) 502-4500, pubaffairs@ussc.gov. More information about the Tribal Issues Advisory Group is available on the Commission's website at <http://www.ussc.gov/about/who-we-are/advisory-groups>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Tribal Issues Advisory Group is a standing advisory group of the United States Sentencing Commission pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 995 and Rule 5.4 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. Under the charter for the Tribal Issues Advisory Group, the purpose of the advisory group is (1) to assist the Commission in carrying out its statutory responsibilities under 28 U.S.C. 994(o); (2) to provide to the Commission its views on federal sentencing issues relating to American Indian and Alaska Native defendants and victims, and to offenses committed in Indian country; (3) to engage in

meaningful consultation and outreach with tribes, tribal governments, and tribal organizations regarding federal sentencing issues that have tribal implications; (4) to disseminate information regarding federal sentencing issues to tribes, tribal governments, and tribal organizations; and (5) to perform any other related functions as the Commission requests. The advisory group consists of no more than 9 members, each of whom may serve not more than two consecutive three-year terms. Of those 9 members, not more than 1 shall be a Federal judge; 2 shall be from the Executive Branch (one from the United States Department of Justice and one from the United States Department of the Interior); 1 shall be from a federal public defender organization or community defender organization; 1 shall be a tribal court judge; and not more than 4 shall be at-large members.

Members of the Tribal Issues Advisory Group are appointed by the Commission. To be eligible to serve as a member, an individual must have expertise, knowledge and/or experience in the issues considered by the Tribal Issues Advisory Group. The Commission intends that the at-large membership shall include individuals with membership in or experience with tribes, tribal governments, and tribal organizations, appointed in a manner that ensures representation among tribal communities diverse in size, geographic location, and other unique characteristics.

The Commission invites any individual who is eligible to be appointed to the at-large membership of the Tribal Issues Advisory Group to apply by sending a letter of interest and a resume to the Commission as indicated in the **ADDRESSES** section above.

Authority: 28 U.S.C. 994(a), (o), (p), 995; USSC Rules of Practice and Procedure 5.4.

William H. Pryor Jr.,
Acting Chair.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**Reasonable Charges for Inpatient MS-DRGs and SNF Medical Services; v3.24, Fiscal Year 2019 Update**

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document updates the acute inpatient and the skilled nursing

facility (SNF)/sub-acute inpatient facility charges. The updated charges are based on the 2019 Medicare severity diagnosis related groups (MS-DRG).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Romona Greene, Office of Community Care, Revenue Operations, Payer Relations and Services, Rates and Charges (10D1C1), 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(a)(1) 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 SNF/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 2018 MS-DRGs. Acute inpatient facility charges by MS-DRGs are posted on the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Office of Community Care's website, at www.va.gov/communitycare/revenue_ops/payer_rates.asp, under the "Reasonable Charges Data Tables" section, Inpatient Data Table, as Table A (v3.22). This Table A corresponds to the Table A referenced in 82 FR 44701, September 25, 2017. Table A referenced in this notice is v3.24, which provides updated charges based on the 2019 MS-DRGs, will replace Table A (v3.22) posted on the VHA Office of Community Care's website.

Also, this document updates the SNF/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.

For the geographic area factors, see Table N, Acute Inpatient, and Table O, SNF, on the VHA Office of Community Care's website under the v3.23 link in the "Reasonable Charges Data Tables" section. Tables N and O are not being updated by this notice. The SNF/sub-acute inpatient facility per diem charge is posted on the VHA Office of Community Care's website under the "Reasonable Charges Data Tables" section, Table B (v3.22). This Table B corresponds to the Table B referenced in 82 FR 44701, September 25, 2017. Table B referenced in this notice is v3.24, which provides an update to the all-inclusive nationwide SNF/sub-acute inpatient facility per diem charge and will replace Table B posted on the VHA Office of Community Care's website.

The charges in this notice for acute inpatient and SNF/sub-acute inpatient facility services are effective October 1, 2018.

This notice is retaining the table designations used for acute inpatient facility charges by MS-DRGs, which is posted on the VHA Office of

Community Care's website under "Reasonable Charges Data Tables." This notice is also retaining the table designation used for SNF/sub-acute inpatient facility charges, which is also posted on the VHA Office of Community Care's website. Accordingly, the tables identified as being updated by this notice correspond to the applicable tables referenced in 82 FR 44701, September 25, 2017.

The list of data sources presented in Supplementary Table 1 (v3.24) reflects the updated data sources used to establish the updated charges described in this notice, and will be posted on the VHA Office of Community Care's website under the "Reasonable Charges Data Sources" section.

The list of VA medical facility locations is also updated. In Supplementary Table 3, posted on the VHA Office of Community Care's website under the VA Medical Facility Locations section, VA 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 VHA Office of Community Care's website, under the "Payer Rates and Charges" information section.

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 September 13, 2018 for publication.

Dated: September 14, 2018.

Luvenia Potts,

Program Specialist, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs.

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