

Department of Veterans Affairs

§ 17.1505

(c) To obtain reimbursement for emergency transportation under paragraph (a) of this section, an individual eligible under § 17.1210 must submit to VA a standard billing form and other information as required no later than 180 calendar days from the date the individual paid for such transportation. Submission instructions, to include required forms and other information, can be found at *www.va.gov*.

(d) Payment by VA under paragraph (a) of this section shall, unless rejected and refunded within 30 calendar days of receipt, extinguish all liability on the part of the individual who received care. No provision of a contract, agreement, or assignment to the contrary shall operate to modify, limit, or negate this requirement.

EXPANDED ACCESS TO NON-VA CARE THROUGH THE VETERANS CHOICE PROGRAM

SOURCE: Sections 17.1500 through 17.1540 appear at 79 FR 65585, Nov. 5, 2014, unless otherwise noted.

§ 17.1500 Purpose and scope.

(a) *Purpose.* Sections 17.1500 through 17.1540 implement the Veterans Choice Program, authorized by section 101 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014.

(b) *Scope.* The Veterans Choice Program authorizes VA to furnish hospital care and medical services to eligible veterans, as defined in § 17.1510, through agreements with eligible entities or providers, as defined in § 17.1530.

(Authority: Sec. 101, Pub. L. 113-146, 128 Stat. 1754)

§ 17.1505 Definitions.

For purposes of the Veterans Choice Program under §§ 17.1500 through 17.1540:

Appointment means an authorized and scheduled encounter with a health care provider for the delivery of hospital care or medical services. A visit to an emergency room or an unscheduled visit to a clinic is not an appointment.

Attempt to schedule means contact with a VA scheduler or VA health care provider in which a stated request by the veteran for an appointment is made.

Episode of care means a necessary course of treatment, including follow-up appointments and ancillary and specialty services, which lasts no longer than 1 calendar year from the date of the first appointment with a non-VA health care provider.

Full-time primary care physician means a single VA physician whose workload, or multiple VA physicians whose combined workload, equates to 0.9 full time equivalent employee working at least 36 clinical hours a week at the VA medical facility and who provides primary care as defined by their privileges or scope of practice and licensure.

Health-care plan means an insurance policy or contract, medical or hospital service agreement, membership or subscription contract, or similar arrangement not administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, under which health services for individuals are provided or the expenses of such services are paid; and does not include any such policy, contract, agreement, or similar arrangement pursuant to title XVIII or XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) or chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code.

Residence means a legal residence or personal domicile, even if such residence is seasonal. A person may maintain more than one residence but may only have one residence at a time. If a veteran lives in more than one location during a year, the veteran's residence is the residence or domicile where the person is staying at the time the veteran wants to receive hospital care or medical services through the Program. A post office box or other non-residential point of delivery does not constitute a residence.

Schedule means identifying and confirming a date, time, location, and entity or health care provider for an appointment.

VA medical facility means a VA hospital, a VA community-based outpatient clinic, or a VA health care center, any of which must have at least one full-time primary care physician. A Vet Center, or Readjustment Counseling Service Center, is not a VA medical facility.

Wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration means, unless changed