

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986, referred to in subsec. (b)(4), is title IV of Pub. L. 99-660, Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3784, which is classified generally to chapter 117 (§1101 et seq.) of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1101 of Title 42 and Tables.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Pub. L. 117-328, div. U, title I, §141(b), Dec. 29, 2022, 136 Stat. 5423, provided that: "Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 29, 2022], the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall commence the implementation of section 1703F of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1)."

§ 1703G. Quarterly report on referrals for non-Department health care

The Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a quarterly report containing, with respect to referrals for non-Department health care originating from a medical facility of the Department during the quarter preceding the date of the submission of the report, a measurement of, for each such medical facility—

(1) the period of time between—

(A) the date on which a clinician employed by the Department determines that a veteran requires care, or a veteran presents to the Department requesting care, and the date on which the referral for care is sent to a non-Department health care provider;

(B) the date on which such referral is sent to a non-Department health care provider and the date on which such non-Department health care provider accepts such referral;

(C) the date on which such non-Department health care provider accepts such referral and the date on which such referral is completed;

(D) the date on which such referral is completed and the date on which an appointment with a non-Department health care provider is made; and

(E) the date on which such an appointment is made and the date on which such appointment occurs; and

(2) any other period of time that the Secretary determines necessary.

(Added Pub. L. 118-210, title I, §140(a), Jan. 2, 2025, 138 Stat. 2743.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 118-210, title I, §140(b), Jan. 2, 2025, 138 Stat. 2744, provided that: "The first report under section 1703G [38 U.S.C. 1703G], as added by this section, shall be due not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section [Jan. 2, 2025]."

§ 1704. Preventive health services: annual report

Not later than October 31 each year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-

resentatives a report on preventive health services. Each such report shall include the following:

(1) A description of the programs and activities of the Department with respect to preventive health services during the preceding fiscal year, including a description of the following:

(A) The programs conducted by the Department—

(i) to educate veterans with respect to health promotion and disease prevention;

(ii) to provide veterans with preventive health screenings and other clinical services, with such description setting forth the types of resources used by the Department to conduct such screenings and services and the number of veterans reached by such screenings and services; and

(iii) to provide veterans each immunization on the recommended adult immunization schedule at the time such immunization is indicated on that schedule.

(B) The means by which the Secretary addressed the specific preventive health services needs of particular groups of veterans (including veterans with service-connected disabilities, elderly veterans, low-income veterans, women veterans, institutionalized veterans, and veterans who are at risk for mental illness).

(C) The manner in which the provision of such services was coordinated with the activities of the Medical and Prosthetic Research Service of the Department and the National Center for Preventive Health.

(D) The manner in which the provision of such services was integrated into training programs of the Department, including initial and continuing medical training of medical students, residents, and Department staff.

(E) The manner in which the Department participated in cooperative preventive health efforts with other governmental and private entities (including State and local health promotion offices and not-for-profit organizations).

(F) The specific research carried out by the Department with respect to the long-term relationships among screening activities, treatment, and morbidity and mortality outcomes.

(G) The cost effectiveness of such programs and activities, including an explanation of the means by which the costs and benefits (including the quality of life of veterans who participate in such programs and activities) of such programs and activities are measured.

(2) A specific description of research activities on preventive health services carried out during that period using employees, funds, equipment, office space, or other support services of the Department, with such description setting forth—

(A) the source of funds for those activities;

(B) the articles or publications (including the authors of the articles and publications) in which those activities are described;

(C) the Federal, State, or local governmental entity or private entity, if any, with which such activities were carried out; and