

“(a) DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN FOR RECOVERY AND COLLECTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Aug. 6, 2012], the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop and implement a plan to ensure the recovery and collection of amounts under the provisions of law described in section 1729A(b) of title 38, United States Code, for deposit in the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Care Collections Fund.

“(2) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) An effective process to identify billable fee claims.

“(B) Effective and practicable policies and procedures that ensure recovery and collection of amounts described in section 1729A(b) of such title.

“(C) The training of employees of the Department, on or before September 30, 2013, who are responsible for the recovery or collection of such amounts to enable such employees to comply with the process required by subparagraph (A) and the policies and procedures required by subparagraph (B).

“(D) Fee revenue goals for the Department.

“(E) An effective monitoring system to ensure achievement of goals described in subparagraph (D) and compliance with the policies and procedures described in subparagraph (B).

“(b) MONITORING OF THIRD-PARTY COLLECTIONS.—The Secretary shall monitor the recovery and collection of amounts from third parties (as defined in section 1729(i) of such title) for deposit in such fund.”

MEDICAL SERVICES ACCOUNTS

Pub. L. 108–447, div. I, title I, §115, Dec. 8, 2004, 118 Stat. 3293, provided that:

“(a) Hereafter receipts that would otherwise be credited to the accounts listed in subsection (c) shall be deposited into the Medical Care Collections Fund, and shall be transferred to and merged with the ‘Medical services’ account, in fiscal year 2005 and subsequent years, to remain available until expended, to carry out the purposes of the ‘Medical services’ account.

“(b) The unobligated balances in the accounts listed in subsection (c), shall be transferred to and merged with the ‘Medical services’ account in fiscal year 2005 and subsequent years, and remain available until expended, to carry out the purposes of the ‘Medical services’ account: *Provided*, That the obligated balances in these accounts may be transferred to the ‘Medical services’ account at the discretion of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and shall remain available until expended.

“(c) Veterans Extended Care Revolving Fund; Medical Facilities Revolving Fund; Special Therapeutic and Rehabilitation Fund; Nursing Home Revolving Fund; Veterans Health Services Improvement Fund; and Parking Revolving Fund.”

Similar provisions were contained in the following prior appropriation act:

Pub. L. 108–199, div. G, title I, §115, Jan. 23, 2004, 118 Stat. 370.

REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 8023 OF PUB. L. 105–33

Pub. L. 105–33, title VIII, §8023(f), Aug. 5, 1997, 111 Stat. 667, provided that: “Not later than January 1, 1999, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the implementation of this section [enacting this section, amending sections 712, 1710, 1722A, and 1729 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 712 and 1729 of this title]. The report shall describe the collections under each of the provisions specified in section 1729A(b) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a). Information on such collections shall be shown for each of the health service networks

(known as Veterans Integrated Service Networks) and, to the extent practicable for each facility within each such network. The Secretary shall include in the report an analysis of differences among the networks with respect to (A) the market in which the networks operates, (B) the effort expended to achieve collections, (C) the efficiency of such effort, and (D) any other relevant information.”

§ 1729B. Consolidated patient accounting centers

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than five years after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish not more than seven consolidated patient accounting centers for conducting industry-modeled regionalized billing and collection activities of the Department.

(b) FUNCTIONS.—The centers shall carry out the following functions:

(1) Reengineer and integrate all business processes of the revenue cycle of the Department.

(2) Standardize and coordinate all activities of the Department related to the revenue cycle for all health care services furnished to veterans for non-service-connected medical conditions.

(3) Apply commercial industry standards for measures of access, timeliness, and performance metrics with respect to revenue enhancement of the Department.

(4) Apply other requirements with respect to such revenue cycle improvement as the Secretary may specify.

(Added Pub. L. 110–387, title IV, §406(a), Oct. 10, 2008, 122 Stat. 4129.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of the enactment of this section, referred to in subsec. (a), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 110–387, which was approved Oct. 10, 2008.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1729B, added Pub. L. 106–117, title II, §202(a), Nov. 30, 1999, 113 Stat. 1561; amended Pub. L. 107–103, title V, §509(c), Dec. 27, 2001, 115 Stat. 997; Pub. L. 107–330, title III, §308(g)(7), Dec. 6, 2002, 116 Stat. 2829, related to the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Improvement Fund, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 108–7, div. K, title I, §113(a)(1), Feb. 20, 2003, 117 Stat. 482.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

TRANSFER OF BALANCE

Pub. L. 108–7, div. K, title I, §113(a)(1), Feb. 20, 2003, 117 Stat. 482, repealed former section 1729B of this title and provided that any balance as of Feb. 20, 2003, in the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Improvement Fund established under former section 1729B was to be transferred to the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Care Collections Fund established under section 1729A of this title.

§ 1730. Community residential care

(a) Subject to this section and regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary under this section, the Secretary may assist a veteran by referring such veteran for placement in, and aiding such veteran in obtaining placement in, a community residential-care facility if—

(1) at the time of initiating the assistance the Secretary—

(A) is furnishing the veteran medical services on an outpatient basis or hospital, domiciliary, or nursing home care; or

(B) has furnished the veteran such care or services within the preceding 12 months; and

(2) placement of the veteran in a community residential-care facility is appropriate.

(b)(1) The Secretary may not provide assistance under subsection (a) of this section with respect to a community residential-care facility unless such facility is approved by the Secretary for the purposes of this section.

(2) The Secretary's approval of a facility for the purposes of this section shall be based upon the Secretary's determination, after inspection of the facility, that the facility meets the standards established in regulations prescribed under this section. Such standards shall include the following:

(A) Health and safety criteria, including a requirement of compliance with applicable State laws and local ordinances relating to health and safety.

(B) A requirement that the costs charged for care by a facility be reasonable, as determined by the Secretary, giving consideration to such factors as (i) the level of care, supervision, and other services to be provided, (ii) the cost of goods and services in the geographic area in which the facility is located, and (iii) comparability with other facilities in such area providing similar services.

(C) Criteria for determining the resources that a facility needs in order to provide an appropriate level of services to veterans.

(D) Such other criteria as the Secretary determines are appropriate to protect the welfare of veterans placed in a facility under this section.

(3) Payment of the charges of a community residential-care facility for any care or service provided to a veteran whom the Secretary has referred to that facility under this section is not the responsibility of the United States or of the Department.

(c)(1) In order to determine continued compliance by community residential-care facilities that have been approved under subsection (b) of this section with the standards established in regulations prescribed under this section, the Secretary shall provide for periodic inspection of such facilities.

(2) If the Secretary determines that a facility is not in compliance with such standards, the Secretary (in accordance with regulations prescribed under this section)—

(A) shall cease to refer veterans to such facility; and

(B) may, with the permission of the veteran (or the person or entity authorized by law to give permission on behalf of the veteran), assist in removing a veteran from such facility.

Regulations prescribed to carry out this paragraph shall provide for reasonable notice and, upon request made on behalf of the facility, a hearing before any action authorized by this paragraph is taken.

(d) The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section. Such regulations shall include the standards required by subsection (b) of this section.

(e)(1) To the extent possible, the Secretary shall make available each report of an inspection of a community residential-care facility under subsection (b)(2) or (c)(1) of this section to each Federal, State, and local agency charged with the responsibility of licensing or otherwise regulating or inspecting such facility.

(2) The Secretary shall make the standards prescribed in regulations under subsection (d) of this section available to all Federal, State, and local agencies charged with the responsibility of licensing or otherwise regulating or inspecting community residential-care facilities.

(f) For the purpose of this section, the term "community residential-care facility" means a facility that provides room and board and such limited personal care for and supervision of residents as the Secretary determines, in accordance with regulations prescribed under this section, are necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of residents.

(Added Pub. L. 98-160, title I, §104(a), Nov. 21, 1983, 97 Stat. 996, §630; amended Pub. L. 102-54, §14(b)(15), June 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 284; renumbered §1730 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §§4(a)(3), (4), (b)(1), (2)(E), 5(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404-406.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), renumbered section 630 of this title as this section.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102-83, §4(b)(1), (2)(E), substituted "Secretary" for "Administrator" wherever appearing.

Pub. L. 102-54 struck out "(1)" after "(a)" and redesignated former subparagraph (A) as par. (1), cl. (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and former subparagraph (B) as par. (2).

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 102-83, §4(b)(1), (2)(E), substituted "Secretary" for "Administrator" wherever appearing and "Secretary's" for "Administrator's" in two places.

Pub. L. 102-83, §4(a)(3), (4), substituted "Department" for "Veterans' Administration" in par. (3).

Subsecs. (c) to (f). Pub. L. 102-83, §4(b)(1), (2)(E), substituted "Secretary" for "Administrator" wherever appearing.

§ 1730A. Prohibition on collection of copayments from certain veterans

(a) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding subsections (f) and (g) of section 1710 and section 1722A(a) of this title or any other provision of law, the Secretary may not require a covered veteran to make any copayment for the receipt of hospital care or medical services under the laws administered by the Secretary.

(b) COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section, the term "covered veteran" means a veteran who—

(1) is catastrophically disabled, as defined by the Secretary; or

(2) is an Indian or urban Indian (as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603)).

(Added Pub. L. 111-163, title V, §511(a), May 5, 2010, 124 Stat. 1164; amended Pub. L. 116-315, title III, §3002(a), Jan. 5, 2021, 134 Stat. 4990.)