

HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

- 1. REASON FOR ISSUE:** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook updates Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) information regarding Veteran health care benefits received in foreign countries under the Foreign Medical Program (FMP).
- 2. SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES:** None.
- 3. RELATED ISSUES:** None.
- 4. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:** The Chief Business Office Purchased Care (CBOPC) (10D1B) is responsible for the contents of this Handbook. Questions may be addressed to (303) 331-7500.
- 5. RESCISSION:** VHA Handbook 1601F.05, dated February 5, 2010 is rescinded.
- 6. RECERTIFICATION:** This VHA Handbook is scheduled for recertification on or before the last working day of April 2021.

David J. Shulkin, M.D,
Under Secretary for Health

DISTRIBUTION: E-mailed to the VHA Publication Distribution List on 4/5/2016.

CONTENTS

HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

| PARAGRAPH | PAGE |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Purpose | 1 |
| 2. Background | 1 |
| 3. Scope | 1 |
| 4. Responsibilities | 2 |
| 5. Registration | 2 |

HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

1. PURPOSE

This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook defines procedures regarding Veterans' health care benefits received in foreign countries under the Foreign Medical Program (FMP). **AUTHORITY:** Title 38 United States Code (USC) 1724.

2. BACKGROUND

a. The FMP is a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care benefits program for Veterans with service-connected disabilities who are traveling or residing outside of the United States (U.S.). VA may furnish hospital care and medical services in foreign countries to those Veterans eligible under 38 CFR 17.35, Hospital care and medical services in foreign countries if:

(1) Necessary for treatment of a service-connected disability or any disability associated with and held to be aggravating a service-connected disability; or

(2) The care is furnished to a Veteran participating in a rehabilitation program under 38 U.S.C. Chapter 31, who requires care for the reasons enumerated in 38 CFR 17.47(i)(2).

b. For the purposes of this Handbook and consistent with 38 U.S.C 101(20, "Foreign Country" means any place other than:

(1) The 50 United States;

(2) U.S. territories and possessions; and

(3) The District of Columbia; and

(4) The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

c. The FMP is administered by Chief Business Office Purchased Care (CBOPC), Denver, CO, under the administrative and programmatic direction of the Department of Veterans Affairs Chief Business Office (CBO) (10D1F), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420.

d. To obtain further information on benefits and reimbursement, including claim filing, the FMP's operational guidelines are accessible at:

<http://www.va.gov/PURCHASEDCARE/programs/veterans/fmp/index.asp>

3. SCOPE

CBOPC is responsible for all aspects of the FMP including the Veteran's registration process, verification of eligibility, authorization of medical benefits, and the reimbursement of claims for medical services.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. **Chief Business Officer.** The Chief Business office is responsible for.

- (1) Maintaining oversight of the FMP program management;
- (2) Establishing centralized reporting requirements, as needed;
- (3) Reviewing recommendations of the Deputy Chief Business Officer (DCBO) for Purchased Care; and
- (4) Functioning in a liaison capacity with other VA Central Office staff and other federal agencies.

b. **Deputy Chief Business Officer for Purchased Care.** The Deputy Chief Business Officer for Purchased Care is responsible for:

- (1) Managing all FMP activities including planning, organizing, budgeting, directing, coordinating, evaluating, and improving administrative operations;
- (2) Representing VA as the FMP program official and exercising a controlling influence in all matters of executive-level involvement in FMP program matters;
- (3) Providing liaison support to CBO, VA Central Office staff, and other federal agencies;
- (4) Establishing and maintaining the FMP operational guidelines consistent with applicable public laws, regulations, and established program requirements;
- (5) Developing and applying a comprehensive Quality Assurance Program; and
- (6) Developing and implementing internal controls to ensure timely processing of Veteran registration, authorization of benefits, and reimbursement of claims.

5. REGISTRATION

To register for the FMP, the Veteran must complete VA Form 10-7959f-1, Foreign Medical Program Registration Form, and submit it to the Chief Business Office Purchased Care, P.O. Box 469061, Denver, CO 80246-9061.