

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–0606]

Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review: Regulation for Submission of Evidence

AGENCY: Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, this notice announces that the Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden and it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before December 15, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through www.Regulations.gov, or to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attn: VA Desk Officer; 725 17th St. NW., Washington, DC 20503 or sent through electronic mail to oir_submission@omb.eop.gov. Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900–0606” in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cynthia Harvey-Pryor, Enterprise Records Service (005R1B), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461–5870 or email cynthia.harvey-pryor@va.gov. Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900–0606” in any correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: US Code: 38 U.S.C. 1729.

Title: Regulation for Submission of Evidence—Title 38 CFR 17.101(a)(4).
OMB Control Number: 2900–0606.

Type of Review: Renewal of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Under the provisions of 38 CFR, Section 17.101(a)(4), entitled “Amount of Recovery or Collection—Third Party Liability”, a third-party payer that is liable for reimbursing VA for health care VA provided to Veterans with non-service-connected conditions continues to have the option of paying either the billed charges as described in Section 17.101 or the amount the health plan demonstrates it would pay to providers other than entities of the

United States for the same care or services in the same geographic area. If the amount submitted for payment is less than the amount billed, VA will accept the submission as payment, subject to verification at VA’s discretion. A VA employee having responsibility for collection of such charges may request that the third party payer submit evidence or information to substantiate the appropriateness of the payment amount (e.g., health plan policies, provider agreements, medical evidence, proof of payment to other providers demonstrating the amount paid for the same care and services VA provided). This information would be needed to determine whether the third-party payer has met the test of properly demonstrating its equivalent private sector provider payment amount for the same care or services and within the same geographic area as provided by VA. This form provides for requesting patient medical records, health plan policies, provider agreements and any type or records that provide evidence of medical services and proof of payments made to others for the same medical care and services.

If VA accepts the submitted payment that is less than the billed charges, the third party payer can be subject to rate verification. In the event that rate verification is conducted, the results can be used to negotiate better rates, recoup underpayments, or amend agreements. Absent a third party payer agreement, VA should also be reimbursed billed charges or the amount third party payers would pay to non-government entities.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published at 82 FR 40831 on August 28, 2017, pages 40831 and 40832.

Affected Public: Individuals and households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 800 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 120 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Annually.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 400.

By direction of the Secretary.

Cynthia Harvey-Pryor,

Department Clearance Officer, Office of Quality, Privacy and Risk, Department of Veterans Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–0750]

Agency Information Collection Activity: Ethics Consultation Feedback Tool (ECFT)

AGENCY: Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed reinstatement of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before January 16, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at www.Regulations.gov or to Brian McCarthy, Office of Regulatory and Administrative Affairs (10B4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420 or email to Brian.McCarthy4@va.gov. Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900–0750” in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through FDMS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brian McCarthy at (202) 461–6345.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995, Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VHA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VHA’s functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VHA’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on

respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Authority: 38 U.S.C. Part 1 Chapter 5 Section 527.

Title: Ethics Consultation Feedback Tool (ECFT); VA Form 10–10065.

OMB Control Number: 2900–0750.

Type of Review: Reinstatement of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Ethics consultation is a service provided in all Veterans Health Administration (VHA) facilities. We define ethics consultation as a service provided by an individual ethics consultant, ethics consultation team, or ethics committee to help patients, providers, and other parties resolve ethical concerns in a health care setting. The overall goal of ethics consultation is

to improve health care quality by facilitating the resolution of ethical concerns. By providing a forum for discussion and methods for careful analysis, effective ethics consultation:

- Promotes practices consistent with high ethical standards
- helps foster consensus and resolve conflict in an atmosphere of respect
- honors participants' authority and values in the decision-making process
- educates participants to handle current and future ethical concerns

Ensuring the success of the ethics consultation service also requires ongoing evaluation, by which we mean systematic assessment of the operation and/or outcomes of a program compared to a set of explicit or implicit standards, as a means of contributing to the continuous improvement of the program. Evaluation is an important

strategy to improve the process of ethics consultation (*i.e.*, how ethics consultation is being performed) as well as its outcomes (*i.e.*, how ethics consultation affects participants and the facility).

Affected Public: Individuals and households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 47 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 5 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Annually.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 569.

By direction of the Secretary.

Cynthia Harvey-Pryor,

Department Clearance Officer, Office of Quality, Privacy and Risk, Department of Veterans Affairs.

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