

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

[OMB Control No. 2900-0161]

**Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), 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 revision of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on the information needed to report medical expenses paid in connection with claims for pension and other income-based benefits.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before March 14, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M35), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail [irmnkess@vba.va.gov](mailto:irmnkess@vba.va.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0161" in any correspondence.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-5947.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), 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, VBA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA'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.

*Title:* Medical Expense Report, VA Form 21-8416.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0161.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* VA Form 21-8416 is completed by beneficiaries in receipt of income-based benefits and claimants claiming income-based benefits to report medical expenses paid in connection with claims for pension and other income-based benefits. Unreimbursed medical expenses paid by a beneficiary or claimant may be excluded from their countable income. VA uses the data collected to determine the claimant's entitlement to improved pension and the appropriate rate payable.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 48,200 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 30 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 96,400.

Dated: December 29, 2004.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Jacqueline Parks,**

*IT Specialist, Records Management Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

[OMB Control No. 2900-0606]

**Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) 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 revision of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public

comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on the information needed to collect or recover cost for medical care or services provided or furnished to a veteran by VA for non-service-connected conditions.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before March 14, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information to Ann Bickoff, Veterans Health Administration (193E1), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail [ann.bickoff@mail.va.gov](mailto:ann.bickoff@mail.va.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0606" in any correspondence.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ann Bickoff at (202) 273-8310.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), 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.

*Title:* Regulation for Submission of Evidence—Title 38 CFR 17.1C1(a)(2).

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0606.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* Under the provisions of 38 CFR, § 17.101(a)(4) a third party payer is liable for reimbursing VA for care and services VA provided to a veteran with non-service-connected conditions continues to have the option of paying either the billed charges 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