

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CHARTER OF THE
SPECIAL MEDICAL ADVISORY GROUP

A. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION: Special Medical Advisory Group.

B. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITY: The Special Medical Advisory Group advises the Secretary and the Under Secretary for Health on the care and treatment of enrolled veterans and other matters pertinent to the operations of the Veterans Health Administration.

C. PERIOD OF TIME NECESSARY FOR THE COMMITTEE TO CARRY OUT ITS PURPOSES: Established as a continuing panel in accordance with Section 7312, 38 United States Code, the Committee has no termination date.

D. OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Special Medical Advisory Group reports to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, through the Under Secretary for Health, and to the Under Secretary for Health directly.

E. OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING THE NECESSARY SUPPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE: The Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, is responsible for providing support to the Special Medical Advisory Group.

F. DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE: The Special Medical Advisory Group provides advice and consultation to the Secretary and the Under Secretary for Health on various matters relating to care and treatment of disabled veterans and other matters pertinent to the Veterans Health Administration, including education and training of health care professionals, research, and VA's role in support of Department of Defense and Homeland Security missions. By statute, Committee membership shall include a disabled veteran; members of the medical, dental, podiatric, optometric, and allied health professions; and other individuals considered by the Under Secretary for Health to have experience pertinent to the mission of the Veterans Health Administration. The Committee will be composed of approximately fifteen (15) members. Several members may be Regular Government Employees, but the majority of the Committee's membership will be Special Government Employees.

G. ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS IN DOLLARS AND STAFF YEARS: Estimated annual operating costs for the Special Medical Advisory Group are \$131,000 and 0.8 staff years. All members will receive travel expenses and a per diem allowance in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulation for any travel made in connection with their duties as members of the Committee.

H. ESTIMATED NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETING: The Committee is expected to meet up to twice annually. The Designated Federal Officer (DFO), a full time VA employee, will approve the schedule of Committee meetings. The DFO or a designee will be present at all meetings, and each meeting will be conducted in accordance with an agenda approved by the DFO. The DFO is authorized to adjourn any meeting when he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so. In addition, individual members, task forces, and subcommittees may be called upon periodically for particular advisory services or consultation.

I. COMMITTEE TERMINATION DATE: Authorized by law for an indefinite period, the Committee has no termination date.

J. DATE CHARTER IS FILED:

Approved:


James B. Peake, M.D.
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Date 1/29/08