

January 25, 2007

**OUTPATIENT HEALTH CARE FOR UNITED STATES VETERANS RESIDING OR
SOJOURNING IN THE PHILIPPINES**

1. PURPOSE: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides the policy for delivery of outpatient health care services to United States (U.S.) veterans residing or sojourning in the Philippines. *NOTE: This policy is intended to ensure that eligible veterans sojourning in the Philippines who develop an unexpected medical condition can obtain needed outpatient medical services and in no way does it authorize the Manila Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Clinic to serve as a sojourning veteran's primary health care facility.*

2. BACKGROUND: In 2000, Title 38 United States Code (U.S.C.), Section 1724, was amended to include new subsection (e), which provides that: "Within the limits of an outpatient clinic in the Republic of the Philippines that is under the direct jurisdiction of the Secretary (of Veterans Affairs), the Secretary may furnish a veteran who has a service-connected disability with such medical services as the Secretary determines to be needed."

a. Prior to the enactment of this amendment, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was limited to providing outpatient treatment for U.S. veterans in the Philippines only for their service-connected conditions.

b. The reference to "an outpatient clinic in the Republic of the Philippines" refers to the Manila VA Clinic, which is located at 2201 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila.

c. The reference to "within the limits" of this clinic refers to the fact that the specific medical services to be provided will be limited to the scope of services available at the Manila VA Clinic.

3. POLICY: It is VHA policy that service-connected U.S. veterans who receive services through the Manila VA Clinic may be treated for non-service connected disabilities, as provided for by 38 U.S.C. Section 1724(e).

4. ACTION: Within the limits of available resources, the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) Director of VISN 21 and the Director of the Manila VA Clinic are responsible for ensuring that services are provided in accordance with this Directive.

5. REFERENCE: Title 38 U.S.C. 1724(e).

6. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY: The Chief Business Officer (16) is responsible for the content of this Directive. Questions may be addressed to 202-254-0329.

7. RESCISSION: This VHA Directive expires on January 31, 2012.

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THIS VHA DIRECTIVE EXPIRES JANUARY 31, 2012