

October 25, 2007

**GENERAL PAY INCREASE AND SPECIAL RATES APPROVED UNDER TITLE 38
UNITED STATES CODE (U.S.C.) 7455 (REPORT CONTROL NUMBER (RCN) 05-0827)**

1. PURPOSE: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive authorizes approval of a general pay increase equal to the amount of the basic General Schedule (GS) increase effective January 6, 2008, for employees being paid special rates authorized under Title 38 United States Code (U.S.C.) 7455, when necessary to ensure adequate staffing or competitive pay rates.

2. POLICY: It is VHA policy to authorize a general pay increase equal to the amount of the basic GS increase for employees being paid special rates authorized under 38 U.S.C. 7455, if the increase is necessary to ensure adequate staffing or competitive pay, and local funds are available to support the amount of the adjustment.

3. ACTION

a. **Facility Director.** The facility Director is responsible for reviewing a summary of the special rate authorizations covered by the annual review to determine if an increase is necessary. Human Resources Information Service distributes the summary to facilities through the Personnel Accounting Integrated Data (PAID) Control Points by October 24, 2007. It is recommended that facility Directors notify the local exclusive labor union and employees of any decision not to authorize an increase. If an adjustment is not necessary, the facility Director must ensure that:

(1) The signed certifications are formatted in the manner shown in Attachment A.

(2) The signed certifications are submitted no later than November 26, 2007, to the appropriate Network Director (10N_/055) for coordination and processing.

(3) Copies of signed certifications are faxed to the Compensation and Classification Service (055) at 202-273-7607. If a certification that “an increase is not necessary” is not received in 055 by December 3, 2007, the occupation will receive the GS increase.

b. **VA Central Office Compensation and Classification Service (055).** VA Central Office Compensation and Classification Service (055) staff are responsible for contacting the facility Human Resources Management Service (HRMS) to confirm receipt of certification that “an increase is not necessary.” If the facility HRMS contact person has not received confirmation by December 14, 2007, then the certification was not received by Compensation and Classification Service (055), and the occupation will receive the GS increase unless immediate action is taken. Increases granted as a result of certifications received past the deadline may not be rescinded.

THIS VHA DIRECTIVE EXPIRES MARCH 31, 2009

VHA DIRECTIVE 2-007-035

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NOTE: Advisory assistance on the provisions of this Directive may be obtained by contacting the Compensation and Classification Service (055) representative handling special rates for the local facility.

4. REFERENCES

- a. Title 38 U.S.C. 7455.
- b. VA Handbook 5007, Part VI.

5. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY: The Office of Human Resources Management (055) is responsible for the contents of this Directive. Questions may be directed to 202-461-7818.

6. RESCISSION: VHA Directive 2006-061 is rescinded. This VHA Directive expires March 31, 2009.

Michael J. Kussman, MD, MS, MACP
Under Secretary for Health

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ATTACHMENT A

**SAMPLE FORMAT FOR
CERTIFICATION THAT AN INCREASE IN SPECIAL RATES IS NOT NECESSARY**

I certify that existing special rates are competitive and an increase equivalent to the general schedule increase is not necessary to maintain adequate staffing.

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Medical Technologist, GS-644	Current rates are competitive with non-Federal health care facilities.

1. Signature of certifying Official: _____
(Facility Director)

2. Facility: _____
(Enter Facility Name and Station Number)

3. Human Resources Management Service Contact Person, Telephone Number, and Date:

(Human Resources Management Service Contact Person)

Telephone Number _____

Date: _____