VHA HANDBOOK 1601F.05 Transmittal Sheet February 5, 2010

# HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

- **1. REASON FOR ISSUE.** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook updates Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) information regarding Veteran health care benefits received in foreign countries under the Foreign Medical Program.
- **2. SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES.** This Handbook updates procedures previously addressed in VHA Manual M-1, Part I, Chapter 23.
- **3. RELATED ISSUES.** VHA Directive 1601 (to be published).
- **4. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE.** The Chief Business Office (16) is responsible for the contents of this VHA Handbook. Questions may be addressed to (303) 331-7500.
- **5. RESCISSION.** VHA Manual, M-1, "Operations," Part I, "Medical Administration Activities," Chapter 23, Hospital Care and Medical Services in Foreign Countries is rescinded.
- **6. RECERTIFICATION.** This VHA Handbook is scheduled for recertification on or before the last working day of February 2015.

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# HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

# 1. PURPOSE

This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook defines procedures regarding Veterans' health care benefits received in foreign countries under the Foreign Medical Program (FMP).

# 2. AUTHORITY

Title 38 United States Code (U.S.C.), Section 1724 provides authority for VHA to furnish hospital care and medical services to a Veteran traveling or residing outside the United States, without regard to a Veteran's citizenship, when necessary for the treatment of a service-connected disability, or while participating in a rehabilitation program under 38 U.S.C. Chapter 31, and who requires care for the reasons set forth in title 38 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 17.47(i)(2).

# 3. BACKGROUND

- a. The FMP is a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care benefits program for Veterans with service-connected disabilities who are traveling or residing outside of the United States. VA may furnish hospital care and medical services in foreign countries to those Veterans eligible under 38 CFR §17.35 if:
- (1) Necessary for treatment of a service-connected disability or any disability associated with and held to be aggravating a service-connected disability; or
- (2) The care is furnished to a Veteran participating in a rehabilitation program under 38 U.S.C. Chapter 31, who requires care for the reasons enumerated in 38 CFR 17.47(i)(2).
  - b. For the purposes of this Handbook, "Foreign Country" means any place other than:
  - (1) The 50 United States;
  - (2) U.S. territories and possessions;
  - (3) The District of Columbia; and
- c. The FMP is administered by the Director, Health Administration Center (HAC), Denver, CO, under the administrative and programmatic direction of the Chief Business Office (CBO) (16), Veterans Health Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420.
- d. To obtain further information on benefits and reimbursement, including claim filing, the Foreign Medical Program policy is accessible at: <a href="https://www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/fmp/fmp.asp.">www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/fmp/fmp.asp.</a>

# 4. SCOPE

The HAC is responsible for all aspects of the FMP including the Veteran's registration process, verification of eligibility, authorization of benefits, and the processing and payment of claims.

# 5. EXCEPTION

Hospital care and medical services furnished to eligible Veterans in the Republic of the Philippines are administered by the VA Outpatient Clinic located in Pasay City, Republic of the Philippines. To obtain services in the Philippines, Veterans may contact the VA Outpatient Clinic located at 2201 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City 1300, Republic of the Philippines.

# 6. REGISTRATION

To register for FMP, the Veteran must complete VA Form 10-7959f-1, Foreign Medical Program Registration Form, and submit it to the Health Administration Center, P.O. Box 469061, Denver, CO 80246-9061.

# 7. RESPONSIBILITIES OF VHA CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICER (16)

The Chief Business Officer (CBO) is responsible for:

- a. Maintaining Oversight of FMP program management;
- b. Establishing centralized reporting requirements, as needed;
- c. Reviewing recommendations of the Deputy Chief Business Officer (DCBO) for Purchased Care and the Director, HAC; and
- d. Functioning in a liaison capacity with other VA Central Office staff and other Federal agencies.

# 8. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR, HEALTH ADMINISTRATION CENTER (HAC)

The Director, HAC, is responsible for:

- a. Managing all FMP activities including planning, organizing, budgeting, directing, coordinating, evaluating, and improving administrative operations;
- b. Representing VA as the FMP program official and exercising a controlling influence in all matters of executive-level involvement in FMP program matters;

- c. Providing liaison support to DCBO, CBO, VA Central Office staff, and other Federal agencies;
- d. Establishing and maintaining the FMP policy consistent with applicable public laws, regulations, and established program requirements;
  - e. Developing and applying a comprehensive Quality Assurance Program; and
- f. Developing and implementing internal controls to ensure timely processing of Veteran registration, authorization of benefits, and payment of claims.