PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals: Veteran/Beneficiary

Claim for Reimbursement of Travel Expenses; OMB No. 0798

Document: VA-2024-VACO-0001-0074

Comment on ICR-Veteran/Beneficiary Claim for Reimbursement of Travel Expenses; Anonymous

Submitter Information

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General Comment

From: benjamin.williams@va.gov

I appreciate you meeting with VTP Leaders (Mr. Cook) and Facility SMEs last week to discuss your questions below.

IAW the guidelines Mr. Cook shared last week, the following requirements all contribute to the need for VA to collect documentation community care appointments were attended from Veterans:

- 1. Public Law 116-117, the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (PIIA), VA is required to verify the Agency (or beneficiary in this case) received the goods/services (care) for the appointment related to the transportation request, prior to reimbursement. I can assure you, VTP (nor I) add any unnecessary documentation requirements.
- 2. Code of Federal Regulations also require:

38 CFR 70.10 staff must verify that Veterans received examination, treatment, or care to ensure that they are eligible for the benefit.

38 CFR 70.20 (e) If VA determines that additional information is needed to make a determination concerning an application under this part, VA will notify the claimant in writing of the deficiency and request additional information. If the claimant has not responded to the request within 30 days, VA may decide the claim prior to the expiration of the 1-year submission period required by 38 U.S.C. 5103(b)(1) based on all the information contained in the file, including any information it has obtained on behalf of the claimant. If VA does so, however, and the claimant subsequently provides the information within 1 year of the date of the request, VA must re-adjudicate the claim.

i. This information can also be found in VHA Procedures guide 1601B.05

VTP and VISN POC regularly monitor claims and staffing levels throughout the country. As of 1/7/2024, your VAMC currently has 7800 unprocessed claims which is 24 days of inventory.

As a reminder, you are able to track your claim status for all claims submitted within BTSSS through the BTSSS Dashboard claims page. Or, if you submitted a paper claim, you may contact your local VA Facility for claim status.

Should you have additional unanswered questions please let me know.

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