

**Department of  
Veterans Affairs**

**MEMORANDUM**

Date posted \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_

June 9, 2004

Chief, Policy and Compliance Division

Transmittal #74 CHAMPVA Policy Manual

See Transmittal Distribution List

1. Explanation of changes and related index updates of the CHAMPVA Policy Manual and filing instructions are in the following summary:

<u>SUMMARY</u>	<u>REMOVE</u>		<u>INSERT</u>	
	<u>C-S</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>C-S</u>	<u>Pages</u>
<a href="#"><u>Chapter 1, Section 2.4</u></a> , <i>Spouse</i> . Under Policy clarifies that the surviving spouse of a Medal of Honor recipient who lost TRICARE eligibility because of remarriage may also apply for CHAMPVA benefits after age 55.	1-2.4	1-3	1-2.4	1-4
<a href="#"><u>Chapter 2, Section 2.4</u></a> , <i>Postmastectomy Reconstructive Breast Surgery</i> . Under Policy clarifies that following a mastectomy, external surgical garments to include postmastectomy surgical bras and external silicone breast prostheses are considered a medical supply item and are covered in lieu of reconstructive breast surgery; clarifies the replacement requirements for surgical garments and breast prostheses; and removes Note reference; under Policy Considerations adds that FDA customized external breast prostheses are covered.	2-2.4	1-3	2-2.4	1-3
<a href="#"><u>Chapter 2, Section 2.7</u></a> , <i>Stereotaxic (Stereotactic) Breast Biopsy</i> . Amends Procedure Codes and under Policy Considerations adds CPT codes for the use of fine needle aspiration (FNA) without imaging guidance and FNA with image guided breast biopsy.	2-2.7	1-2	2-2.7	1-2

**SUMMARY**

**REMOVE**                      **INSERT**  
**C-S**    **Pages**            **C-S**    **Pages**

**Chapter 2, Section 14.1, Maternity Care.**  
Under Policy Considerations corrects Policy title of Chapter 2, Section 21.3 and adds that maternity services provided in TRICARE authorized birthing centers are covered.

2-14.1      1-4      2-14.1      1-4

**Chapter 2, Section 15.3, Home Visits.**  
Amends Procedure Codes; under Policy clarifies that home health nurse services are subject to clinical review for medical necessity; and under Exclusions removes home infusion.

2-15.3      1-2      2-15.3      1-2

**Chapter 2, Section 16.5, Experimental / Investigational (Unproven) Procedures.**  
Under Policy Considerations adds gastric electrical stimulation for gastroparesis.

2-16.5      1-6      2-16.5      1-6

**Chapter 2, Section 26.14, Ultrasound (General).** Amends Procedure Codes; under Description adds that ultrasound is used for diagnostic and guidance purposes; under Policy clarifies coverage criteria for ultrasound; under Policy Considerations adds high-risk factors for bone studies, including naturally or surgically post-menopausal women not on long-term hormone replacement therapy (HRT), and any other high-risk factor accepted as standard care by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist (ACOG); and under Exclusions adds bone density studies for routine screening for osteoporosis and ultrasound performed to determine the sex of a child.

2-26.14      1-2      2-26.14      1-3

**Chapter 2, Section 30.13, Stereotactic Radiosurgery/ Radiotherapy.** Amends Procedure Codes.

2-30.13      1-5      2-30.13      1-5

**SUMMARY**

	<b><u>REMOVE</u></b>		<b><u>INSERT</u></b>	
	<b><u>C-S</u></b>	<b><u>Pages</u></b>	<b><u>C-S</u></b>	<b><u>Pages</u></b>
<b><u>Chapter 2, Section 31.8.</u></b> <i>Combined Liver-kidney Transplantation (CLKT).</i> Amends Procedure Codes; under Policy Considerations adds that effective August 1, 2003, CLKT will be paid under the assigned DRG based on the patient's diagnosis and prior to this date all services related to CLKT will be paid on the cost-to-charge payment system.	2-31.8	1-5	2-31.8	1-5
<b><u>Chapter 3, Section 8.1.</u></b> <i>Mental Health Per Diem.</i> Under Exclusions removes reference to set rates.	3-8.1	1-3	3-8.1	1-3
<b><u>Chapter 3, Section 10.1.</u></b> <i>Anesthesia</i> Under Policy clarifies the criteria for a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA).	3-10.1	1-2	3-10.1	1-2
<b>Codes Index.</b> Amends index to add and delete codes referenced in policies.		1-29		1-29
<b>Subject Index.</b> Amended to update and include policies referenced in this transmittal.		A-1-7 M-1-8		A-1-7 M-1-8

2. File this transmittal memorandum in the front of the CHAMPVA Policy Manual.

Susan Schmetzer  
Chief, Policy & Compliance

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