

FOREIGN MEDICAL PROGRAM POLICY MANUAL INTRODUCTION

A. The Foreign Medical Program (FMP) Policy Manual of the Department of Veterans Affairs contains operational policies necessary to effectively implement the FMP regulation as published in 38 USC 1724 and 38 CFR 17.35.

B. The FMP Policy Manual is consolidated into three chapters. Chapter 1 addresses administrative policies, Chapter 2 addresses benefit policies, and Chapter 3 addresses reimbursement.

C. Each chapter is divided into sections prefaced by a table of contents. Each chapter contains multiple sections which detail specific policies related to the general subject matter of the chapter.

D. The section format used throughout this manual is found at Appendix 1. Below is a brief explanation of the elements of the format. Sections contain only applicable elements.

1. Transmittal number - changes to policies are numbered sequentially.
2. Date - the date a policy was last revised.
3. Chapter.
4. Section.
5. Title.
6. Authority - Public Laws (PL), United States Codes (USC), and the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).
7. Related References - Other references which are applicable to the policy such as Circulars (CIR), Directives (DIR), General Counsel Opinions (GC) and Proposed Program Initiatives (PPI).
8. Effective Date - The specific date that a policy is to be applied to benefit adjudication or program administration. An effective date may be earlier than the transmittal date. In the absence of an effective date, the policy is applicable from the establishment of the Foreign Fee Program in 1958.
9. Procedure Code(s) - Lists the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT),

Diagnostic code (ICD-9) and Health Care Financing Administration, Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes applicable to the subject service(s) or procedure(s).

10. Definitions - Terms used in the policy that may require explanation to assist the user.

11. Description - An explanation of the subject services(s) or procedure(s).

12. Policy - Statement of the current policy related to the subject service(s) or procedure(s).

13. Policy Considerations - Services, procedures or circumstances that are to be considered in the application of the policy.

14. Limitations - Restrictions applicable to the policy.

15. Exceptions - Services, procedures or circumstances that, if present, are not applicable to the policy.

16. Exclusions - Services, procedures or circumstances that may be related to the policy, but are not covered benefits.

17. Page Numbers - The first number represents the chapter, the second represents the section, and the last represents the page.

E. The policy manual is updated as needed. There are no pre-scheduled dates for transmittal changes.