

HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS

INTRODUCTION

A. The Policy Manual contains operational policies necessary to effectively implement Public Laws 104-204 – the Spina Bifida (SB) Healthcare Program and 106-419 – the Children of Women Vietnam Veterans Program (CWVV) and 38 CFR 17.900 – 17.905.

B. The Policy Manual is divided into three chapters. Chapter 1, Program Administration, Chapter 2, Benefits, and Chapter 3, Reimbursements.

C. Each chapter is further divided into multiple sections prefaced by a table of contents. Each section details specific policies related to the general subject matter of the chapter.

D. The section format used throughout this manual is shown in 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 Code (USC), and the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The CFR references are noted in the policies. Unless otherwise noted, the Public Law and USC authorities for policies in this manual are:

- (a) PL 104-204, Section 421 (SB)
- (b) PL 106-419, Section 401 (CWVV)
- (c) 38 USC 1801 (definitions for SB)
- (d) 38 USC 1811 (definitions for CWVV)
- (e) 38 UCS 1802 (covered conditions for SB)

- (f) 38 USC 1812 (covered birth defects for CWVV)
- (g) 38 USC 1803 (health care for SB)
- (h) 38 USC 1813 (health care for CWVV)

7. Related References - Other references that are applicable to the policy such as General Counsel Opinions (GC) and Proposed Policy Initiatives (PPI).

8. Effective Date - The specific date that a policy is to be applied to benefit adjudication or program administration. In the absence of an effective date, the policy is applicable as of the effective date of the law that provides this benefit. The Spina Bifida Health Care Program was effective October 1, 1997, and the Children of Women Vietnam Veterans' Program was effective December 1, 2001.

9. Procedure Code(s) - This manual uses Current Procedure Terminology (CPT) codes and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS). The CPT five-digit numeric codes, description, and numeric modifiers are copyrighted by the American Medical Association. HCPCS alpha and numeric codes and numeric modifiers are copyrighted by Ingenix, Inc.

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

11. Description - An explanation of the subject service(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.

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.