

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

MEMORANDUM

Date posted _____ Initials _____

April 23, 2004

Chief, Policy and Compliance Division

Transmittal #72 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>
<u>Chapter 1, Section 2.4</u> , <i>Spouse</i> . Under Policy extends the grace period to December 31, 2004, for a CHAMPVA-qualifying surviving spouse to apply for benefits who remarries after age 55.	1-2.4	1-3	1-2.4	1-3
<u>Chapter 2, Section 18.18</u> , <i>Psychiatric Partial Hospitalization Programs-Preauthorization And Day Limits</i> . Removes 38 USC 1713 Authority and TRICARE Policy Manual reference; under Effective Date adds October 1, 2003, waiver of preauthorization where Medicare is the primary payer and has authorized the care; and under Policy clarifies that professional services provided by an attending physician that do not duplicate treatment provided in a partial hospitalization program may be billed separately and that preauthorization of inpatient mental health care is no longer required when Medicare is the primary payer and has authorized the care. Once the Medicare benefit is exhausted, CHAMPVA preauthorization is required.	2-18.18	1-4	2-18.18	1-4
<u>Chapter 2, Section 27.1</u> , <i>Integumentary System</i> . Under Effective Date July 23, 2002, adds clarification of coverage for electrical stimulation	2-27.1	1-5	2-27.1	1-5

SUMMARY

REMOVE		INSERT	
<u>C-S</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>C-S</u>	<u>Pages</u>

(ES) and December 17, 2003, for electro-magnetic therapy for the treatment of chronic Stage III and Stage IV ulcers; amends Procedure Codes; under Policy Considerations adds that ES and electromagnetic therapy for chronic Stage III and Stage IV pressure, arterial, diabetic, and venous stasis ulcers are a covered benefit when standard wound care therapy has been tried for a 30-day period; continued ES and electromagnetic therapy are not covered if measurable signs of healing have not been demonstrated within the 30-day period of treatment; and adds to Exclusions topical medications for the removal of skin lesions.

<u>Chapter 2, Section 27.2</u> , <i>Dermatological Procedures</i> . Amends Procedure Codes and under Exclusions adds laser therapy for psoriasis.	2-27.2	1-2	2-27.2	1-2
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<u>Chapter 2, Section 35.1</u> , <i>Female Genital System</i> . Under Exclusions adds endometrial Cyroablation for the treatment of abnormal uterine bleeding.	2-35.1	1-3	2-35.1	1-3
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<u>Chapter 3, Section 8.1</u> , <i>Mental Health Per Diem</i> . Under Definitions clarification is provided for the per diem rate reimbursement methodology; under Policy Considerations adds that holding charges for the days a patient is absent from the psychiatric hospital or unit must be identified when claiming reimbursement (previously mentioned under Exclusions); and under Exclusions adds clarification that billed charges and set rates not subject to DRG-based or the inpatient mental health per diem system will be determined on a cost-to-charge basis and that this payment methodology will be used for all claims exempt from the inpatient mental health per diem payment system.	3-8.1	1-3	3-8.1	1-3
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SUMMARY

REMOVE		INSERT	
<u>C-S</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>C-S</u>	<u>Pages</u>
	19-29		19-29
	B-1-3		B-1-3
	E-1-8		E-1-8
	W-1-2		W-1-2

Codes Index. Amends index to add and delete codes referenced in policies.

Subject Index. Amended to update and include policies referenced in this transmittal.

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

Susan Schmetzer
Chief, Policy & Compliance

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