

HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS

CHAPTER: 3
SECTION: 2
TITLE: ALLOWABLE AMOUNT

AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.903

RELATED REFERENCES: CHAMPVA Policy Manual Chapter 3

I. DEFINITIONS

Allowable amount is the maximum payment that will be authorized for professional services of physicians and other individual professional providers (including professional services rendered by these providers in hospitals) and for certain other services provided incidental to the professional services.

II. POLICY

A. Approved health care providers are paid 100% of the VA-determined allowable amount for covered services.

B. The allowable amount for services, treatment, and supplies is determined using the same reimbursement methodology as applied to the CHAMPVA program (see [Chapter 3, Section 5.1](#), *Outpatient and Inpatient Professional Provider Reimbursement*).

C. Payments to beneficiaries are made using the same payment methodologies applicable to vendors and providers.

D. The allowable amount for covered services constitutes payment in full.

E. The VA is the exclusive payer for covered conditions. As a result, other health insurance coverage is not applicable to these claims.

III. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. Bowel and bladder care.

1. A family member may be reimbursed for providing bowel/bladder care **only** when trained and certified by an outpatient rehabilitation center. A copy of a certificate is required to receive payment.

2. Payment will not exceed the hourly rate paid to nursing assistants in the VA (General Schedule (GS) 5 step 5 basic rate without adjustments).

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B. Payment will be made for postage, shipping, and handling charges when stock is not available locally or not sufficient to meet the beneficiary's needs and medical supplies are obtained through mail-order suppliers. Supplies can include, but are not limited to, continence-related supplies such as diapers, underpads, and catheters.

C. Payment for continuous home care will not exceed the daily rate paid to a skilled nursing facility.

IV. LIMITATIONS

Federal regulations prohibit providers from seeking any additional monies from beneficiaries for services paid by VA.

END OF POLICY