ImprovIng the Veterans ChoICe program

Driving toward a program that is easy to understand, simple to administer, and meets the needs of Veterans and their families, community providers, and VA staff.

Enacted April 19, 2017, a new law made 3 key changes to help improve the Veterans Choice Program

1. **Removal of Sunset Date**
   - The law removed the August 7, 2017 date for the VCP. The VCP will continue until the funds appropriated by Congress are completely expended.

2. **Primary Coordinator of Benefits Designation**
   - VA is now Primary Coordinator of Benefits for services provided to Veterans under the VCP.
   - This change eliminates costly time consuming manual processes and more closely aligns the VCP with other VA programs.

3. **Information Sharing**
   - The law removes barriers to sharing Veteran’s health information with community providers.
   - While ensuring community providers only use that information to provide care.

5. **Immediate Legislative Needs**
   - While we are excited about the recent legislative changes, we know that more needs to be done.
   - VA cannot streamline care and improve the Veterans Choice Program without help from Congress.

**Consolidation and Redesign of Community Care**
- VA has multiple programs to send Veterans out into the community to receive care.
- **Solution:** Consolidate and streamline the multiple community care programs into one program.
- **Impact:** Eligibility and access is easily understood by Veterans and their families, community providers, and VA staff.

**Enhanced Sharing of Patient Information**
- Restrictions prevent VA from sharing critical health information with Veterans’ other health insurance.
- **Solution:** Further revisions to the law by removing barriers to information sharing for all types of health services provided.
- **Impact:** Enhances VA’s ability to coordinate care.

**Obligation of Funding**
- Obligating funding at the time of authorization leads to inaccurate accounting.
- **Solution:** Obligation of funding at the time of payment.
- **Impact:** Improved accounting of community care funds.

**Funding and Funding Flexibility**
- VA Community Care is subject to unnecessary funding constraints.
- **Solution:** Funding for VA Community Care and flexibility to meet the needs of Veterans.
- **Impact:** Ensuring eligible Veterans can access community care and increase funding transparency.

**Provider Agreement**
- Contracts create unnecessary administrative burdens for some community providers.
- **Solution:** Provider Agreements.
- **Impact:** A larger provider network that would increase access to care for Veterans.
VA COMMUNITY CARE QUICK FACTS: DELIVERING RESULTS FOR VETERANS

VA IS USING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO MAKE IMMEDIATE FIXES WHERE WE CAN TODAY

- **>49M** Appointments Completed
  - More than 49 million appointments completed via community care since the beginning of FY 2016. More than 25 million appointments have been completed via community care in fiscal year 2017.

- **>555K** Network Providers
  - The total community care provider network continues to grow, with more than 555,000 current providers.

- **77** Sites with Embedded Staff
  - VCP contractors are embedded on site in 77 locations facilitating closer collaboration with VA staff.

- **26M** Appointments through VCP
  - Since inception, Choice funding has purchased nearly 26 million appointments for Veterans.

- **119** Health Exchange Partners
  - More than 1.28 million unique Veteran patients are supported by bi-directional health information exchange with 119 community care partners supporting thousands of health care facilities.

- **6** Legislative Changes
  - VA partnered with Congress to change legislation to improve the program.

- **>1.8M** Veterans using VCP
  - More than 1.8 million unique Veterans have used VCP since the program’s inception.

- **37M** VA Community Care Claims Processed
  - Since the beginning of FY 2016, VA has processed nearly 37 million claims via all community care programs.

- **3M** Issued Authorizations
  - So far this fiscal year, VA has issued 3 million total authorizations via all community care programs.

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Note: Data current as of September 21, 2017