

OUTPATIENT HEALTH CARE FOR UNITED STATES VETERANS RESIDING IN OR VISITING THE PHILIPPINES AT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) CLINIC IN MANILA

- 1. REASON FOR ISSUE:** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) directive establishes policy for the delivery of outpatient health care services to United States (U.S.) Veterans residing in or visiting the Philippines.
- 2. SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES:**
 - a. Paragraph 3: Defines scope of services available to U.S. Veterans at the Manila VA Clinic.
 - b. Foreign Medical Program. The Foreign Medical Program (FMP) responsibilities are defined.
- 3. RELATED ISSUES:** None.
- 4. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:** The VHA Member Services Business Policy Office (10NF) is responsible for the content of this VHA directive. Questions may be referred to VHAMSPABusinessPolicyAllStaff@va.gov
- 5. RESCISSIONS:** VHA Directive 2012-019, Outpatient Health Care for United States Veterans Residing in or Visiting the Philippines at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Clinic in Manila, dated July 11, 2012, is rescinded.
- 6. RECERTIFICATION:** This VHA directive is scheduled for recertification on or before the last working day of February 2023. This VHA directive will continue to serve as national VHA policy until it is recertified or rescinded.

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Executive in Charge

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1. PURPOSE

This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) directive establishes policy for the delivery of outpatient health care services to United States (U.S.) Veterans residing in or visiting the Philippines. This policy ensures that eligible Veterans who reside in the Philippines, or are visiting the Philippines and develop an unexpected medical condition, can obtain needed outpatient medical services at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Clinic in Manila. **AUTHORITY:** Title 38 United States Code (U.S.C.) 1724.

2. DEFINITIONS

a. **Manila VA Clinic.** The Manila VA Clinic refers to the outpatient clinic in the Republic of the Philippines, which is located at 1501 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila, 01302.

b. **Within the Limits of the VA Manila Clinic.** Within the limits of the VA Manila clinic” means that the health care services provided at this clinic are limited to the scope of services available and capacity of the clinic, as determined by the Director of the Manila VA Clinic and in conjunction with the VISN 21 Network Director.

c. **Foreign Medical Program (FMP).** The Foreign Medical Program (FMP) is a VA health care benefits program for U.S. Veterans who are residing or traveling abroad and have VA-rated, service-connected disabilities. FMP assumes payment responsibility for U.S. Veterans only for a VA-rated service-connected disability, or any disability associated with and held to be aggravating a VA-rated, service-connected disability, or to a Veteran participating in a rehabilitation program under 38 U.S.C. Chapter 31. The FMP is VHA’s program to provide care for service connected Veterans in foreign countries, to include the Philippines. **NOTE:** *For additional information regarding FMP, see VHA Handbook 1601F.05, Hospital Care and Medical Services in Foreign Countries, dated April 1, 2016, or subsequent policy.*

d. **Service Connected Condition.** Veterans must be rated by VA for a service connected condition (0-100%) to be eligible for care in the Manila VA Clinic and to participate in the FMP. A 100% rating due to permanent and total disability, or as a consequence of being rated unemployable, does not render a Veteran eligible for service-connected treatment. Eligibility to receive care is based on the disabilities for which the Veteran has been rated by VA as service-connected.

3. POLICY

It is VHA policy that U.S. Veterans may receive care and services for a Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) adjudicated service-connected disability at the Manila VA Clinic. A service-connected Veteran may be treated for non-service-connected

disabilities within the limits of the Manila VA Clinic. Follow up services that are directly related to the treatment of non-service-connected disabilities, which VA has determined are beyond the capabilities of the clinic, will be the Veteran's responsibility, to include obtaining services and paying for all costs related to treatment. Beneficiary travel reimbursement is not authorized in any foreign country. All care not available within the limits of the clinic shall be provided through the Foreign Medical Program.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. **Under Secretary for Health.** The Under Secretary for Health is responsible for ensuring overall VHA compliance with this directive.

b. **Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management.** The Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management is responsible for:

(1) Communicating the contents of this directive to the Veterans Integrated Services Network (VISN) 21;

(2) Ensuring that the VISN 21 Director has the sufficient resources to fulfill the terms of this directive in the Manila VA Clinic; and

(3) Providing oversight of VISN 21 to assure compliance with this directive; relevant standards; and 38 CFR 17.35.

c. **Director of Veterans Integrated Services Network 21.** The Director of VISN 21 is responsible for:

(1) Ensuring that services are provided in accordance with this directive; and

(2) Determining the capabilities of the Manila VA Clinic in collaboration with the Director of the Manila VA Clinic.

d. **Director of the Manila VA Clinic.** The Director of the Manila VA Clinic is responsible for determining the capabilities of the Manila VA Clinic and ensuring that available services are provided in accordance with this directive.

e. **Foreign Medical Program.** FMP has the responsibility for providing the necessary treatment for a service-connected disability, or any disability associated with and held to be aggravated a service-connected disability, to all Veterans residing in the Philippines, when care is not available at the VA Manila Clinic.

5. REFERENCES

a. 38 U.S.C. 1724.

b. 38 CFR 17.35.

c. VHA Handbook 1601F.05, Hospital Care and Medical Services in Foreign Countries, dated April 1, 2016, or subsequent policy.