



CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, INC.

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National Service Officer Report March 2017

You're Excellency Bishop Higgins, National Chaplain Msgr. Edward Coyle. National Commander Arminda Crawford., National Board of Officers, Department Commanders, Past National Commanders, and Past National Chaplains and membership present.

[VA statement about Office of Inspector General review of implementation of the Veterans Choice Program](#) - VA appreciates the Office of Inspector General (OIG) review of VA's implementation of the Veterans Choice Program (VCP). The OIG report reviewed the VCP from its inception, over two years ago, in November of 2014 through September of 2015. (1/30/17)

[Statement from the Department of Veterans Affairs on federal hiring freeze](#) - WASHINGTON - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced exemptions to the federal hiring freeze in the President's memo dated January 23rd, 2017. The authorities outlined in the President's memo provide VA the ability to continue filling essential positions that provide public safety services to our Veterans. We strongly believe that these exemptions are in line with the President's intent. (1/27/17)

[VA researcher working to improve HIV care for rural Veterans](#) - Dr. Michael Ohl of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Iowa City VA Health Care System is creating a model titled Telehealth Collaborative Care to improve the quality of care for Veterans who live far from specialty clinics. Telehealth Collaborative Care uses videoconferencing to connect rural Veterans with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) with VA specialists. (1/24/17)

[VA to Provide Fertility Counseling and Treatment for Certain Veterans and Spouses](#) - WASHINGTON - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

announced today that it is amending its regulation regarding fertility counseling and treatment available to eligible Veterans and spouses. VA currently provides certain infertility services other than in vitro fertilization (IVF) services to Veterans as part of the medical benefits package. This interim final rule authorizes IVF for a Veteran with a service-connected disability that results in the inability of the Veteran to procreate without the use of fertility treatment. It also states that VA may provide fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technologies (ART), including IVF, to a spouse of a Veteran with a service-connected disability that results in the inability of the Veteran to procreate without the use of fertility treatment. (1/19/17)

[VA's Rule Establishes a Presumption of Service Connection for Diseases Associated with Exposure to Contaminants in the Water Supply at Camp Lejeune](#) - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has published regulations

to establish presumptions for the service connection of eight diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, N.C. (1/13/17)

[Applications to be accepted for 2017 National Veterans Golden Age Games](#) -

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will accept applications from Veterans interested in competing in the 2017 National Veterans Golden Age Games beginning Feb. 1. Veterans ages 55 and older and enrolled in VA health care may complete applications online at www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov. Applications will be accepted through March 1. (1/9/17)

[VA Urges National and Local Partners to Act Now to End Veteran Homelessness](#) - Robert A. McDonald, Department of Veteran Affairs (VA)

Secretary today announced a concentrated 30-day effort by VA staff and partners to house as many homeless Veterans in their communities as possible. To accomplish this, Secretary McDonald charged VA's network of federal, local and nongovernmental partners to target available housing and supportive services to the nation's most vulnerable Veterans. (1/5/17)

[New Members Appointed to VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans](#) -

Four new members have been appointed to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, an expert panel that advises VA's Secretary on issues and programs impacting women Veterans. Established in 1983, the committee makes recommendations to the Secretary for policy and legislative changes. (1/3/17)

[VA Study Finds EEG Can Help Tell Apart PTSD & Mild Traumatic Brain Injury](#) -

A recent VA study points to a possible breakthrough in differentiating between post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI), otherwise known as a concussion. (12/20/16)

[Veterans Crisis Line Improves Service with New Call Center Opening in Atlanta](#) -

The Department of Veteran Affairs cut the ribbon today for its new Veteran Crisis Line (VCL) satellite office in Atlanta allowing the life-saving hotline to expand capacity by nearly 600 Veterans each day essentially doubling VA's ability to help Veterans in need. (12/20/16)

[VA Grants Full Practice Authority to Advance Practice Registered Nurses](#) -

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced that it is amending provider regulations to permit full practice authority to three roles of VA advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) to practice to the full extent of their education, training, and certification, regardless of State restrictions that limit such full practice authority, except for applicable State restrictions on the authority to prescribe and administer controlled substances, when such APRNs are acting within the scope of their VA employment. (12/14/16)

[VA Study Confirms High Cure Rates With New Hepatitis C Drugs](#) -

A Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) database study shows that new drug regimens for hepatitis C have resulted in "remarkably high" cure rates among patients in VA's national health care system. (12/13/16)

[VA Announces Funding Opportunity for Community Partners Working to End Veteran Homelessness](#) -

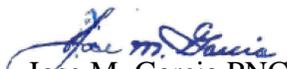
Building on President Obama's commitment to end Veteran homelessness, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is announcing the availability of funding for non-profit organizations and other groups that serve Veterans through VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. The SSVF program assists very low-income Veteran families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. These SSVF grants are available to current grantees seeking renewals and make new funding available for eight high-need communities. (12/13/16)

[VA Recommends 14 Future Sites for Fisher House Construction](#) - The Fisher House offers unique accommodations when a family member is receiving treatment at a VA medical center or military hospital. Located near the medical center or hospital, Fisher Houses offer the comforts of home at no cost to families while treatment is underway. To enable Fisher Houses to expand their good work, Department of Veterans Affairs' Secretary Robert A. McDonald recommended 14 VA medical centers become priority sites for future Fisher Houses. (12/12/16)

[New Regulation Decreases Cost of Outpatient Medication Copay for Most Veterans](#) - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is amending its regulation on copayments for Veterans' outpatient medications for non-service connected conditions. VA currently charges non-exempt Veterans either \$8 or \$9 for each 30-day or less supply of outpatient medication, and under current regulations, a calculation based on the medication of the Medical Consumer Price Index (CPI-P) would be used to determine the copayment amount in future years. (12/12/16)

Now for what we have been busy doing this last few months. We have over 160 accredited Service Officers throughout the United States they service 100% of all our present claims. During this last quarter we have except over 900 new claims and have completed over 500 claims. With monies returned to the Veterans or his dependents and communities of over 4 million dollars one claim alone for a total of over 480 thousand dollars. I hope you notice that I said we because we depend on our accredited National Service Officers to accomplish this task. We attended over 1000 hours of training. I myself attend 80 hours alone this last 2 months. By the way not all our Service Officer are Catholic War Veterans members they are all Volunteers who work for free and ask for nothing in return. They are the ones that you never ask about. So our program for serving our Veterans And Dependents is working great Thanks to our volunteers. We could use another 50 or more especially if they were Catholic War Veterans. We except any veteran or person who is willing to go to the training and become a Service Officer. Also for you information we have about 40% of our Service Officer are females who are hard workers. We service all veterans and their dependents regardless of race or religion.

Thank You and God Bless


Jose M. Garcia PNC
National Service Officer