

later than Dec. 31, 1995, a final report describing results of study.

**DEMONSTRATION PROJECT TO EVALUATE INSTALLATION OF TELEPHONES FOR PATIENT USE AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH-CARE FACILITIES**

Pub. L. 102-585, title V, § 525, Nov. 4, 1992, 106 Stat. 4960, directed Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a demonstration project to evaluate feasibility and desirability of providing telephone service in patient rooms in Department of Veterans Affairs health-care facilities which do not currently provide such service, use of telephones by patients of such health-care facilities, and relative feasibility and cost-effectiveness of a variety of options for providing such service, and submit to Congress a report on the demonstration project not later than Sept. 30, 1994.

**REPORTS ON FURNISHING OF HEALTH CARE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CHANGES IN ELIGIBILITY**

Section 19011(e) of Pub. L. 99-272, as amended by Pub. L. 100-527, §10(1), (2), Oct. 25, 1988, 102 Stat. 2640, 2641; Pub. L. 101-237, title II, §201(d), Dec. 18, 1989, 103 Stat. 2066; Pub. L. 102-40, title III, §302, May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 208; Pub. L. 102-83, §5(c)(2), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 406; Pub. L. 102-291, §4, May 20, 1992, 106 Stat. 179, directed Administrator of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report for each fiscal year through fiscal year 1992 concerning implementation of the amendments made by section 19011 of Pub. L. 99-272, which amended this section and sections 1525, 1701, 1712, 1712A, 1720, 1722, and 1763 of this title and enacted provisions set out as notes under this section and section 1722 of this title, specified detailed information required to be submitted in each report, and provided that each report be submitted not later than the Feb. 1 following the end of the fiscal year for which it is submitted.

**CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES PILOT PROGRAM**

Section 109 of Pub. L. 99-166 directed Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to conduct a pilot program to evaluate therapeutic benefits and cost-effectiveness of furnishing certain chiropractic services to veterans eligible for medical services under this chapter, provided that the pilot program be carried out during period beginning Jan. 1, 1986, and ending Dec. 31, 1988, and directed Administrator to submit to Committees on Veterans' Affairs of Senate and House of Representatives not later than Apr. 1, 1989, a report on implementation, operation, and results of the pilot program.

**§ 1710A. Required nursing home care**

(a) The Secretary (subject to section 1710(a)(4) of this title) shall provide nursing home care which the Secretary determines is needed (1) to any veteran in need of such care for a service-connected disability, and (2) to any veteran who is in need of such care and who has a service-connected disability rated at 70 percent or more.

(b)(1) The Secretary shall ensure that a veteran described in subsection (a) who continues to need nursing home care is not, after placement in a Department nursing home, transferred from the facility without the consent of the veteran, or, in the event the veteran cannot provide informed consent, the representative of the veteran.

(2) Nothing in subsection (a) may be construed as authorizing or requiring that a veteran who is receiving nursing home care in a Department nursing home on the date of the enactment of this section be displaced, transferred, or discharged from the facility.

(c) The provisions of subsection (a) shall terminate on December 31, 2008.

(Added Pub. L. 106-117, title I, §101(a)(1), Nov. 30, 1999, 113 Stat. 1547; amended Pub. L. 106-419, title

II, §224(a), Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1846; Pub. L. 108-170, title I, §106(b), Dec. 6, 2003, 117 Stat. 2046.)

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

The date of the enactment of this section, referred to in subsec. (b)(2), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 106-117, which was approved Nov. 30, 1999.

**AMENDMENTS**

2003—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 108-170 substituted “December 31, 2008” for “December 31, 2003”.

2000—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 106-419 inserted “(subject to section 1710(a)(4) of this title)” after “The Secretary”.

**REPORT TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES**

Pub. L. 106-117, title I, §101(i), Nov. 30, 1999, 113 Stat. 1550, provided that: “Not later than January 1, 2003, the Secretary [of Veterans Affairs] shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the operation of this section [enacting this section and section 1710B of this title, amending sections 1701, 1710, 1720, 1720B and 1741 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 1710B of this title] (including the amendments made by this section). The Secretary shall include in the report—

“(1) the Secretary's assessment of the experience of the Department [of Veterans Affairs] under the provisions of this section;

“(2) the costs incurred by the Department under the provisions of this section and a comparison of those costs with the Secretary's estimate of the costs that would have been incurred by the Secretary for extended care services if this section had not been enacted; and

“(3) the Secretary's recommendations, with respect to the provisions of section 1710A(a) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), and with respect to the provisions of section 1701(10) of such title, as added by subsection (b), as to—

“(A) whether those provisions should be extended or made permanent; and

“(B) what modifications, if any, should be made to those provisions.”

**§ 1710B. Extended care services**

(a) The Secretary (subject to section 1710(a)(4) of this title and subsection (c) of this section) shall operate and maintain a program to provide extended care services to eligible veterans in accordance with this section. Such services shall include the following:

(1) Geriatric evaluation.

(2) Nursing home care (A) in facilities operated by the Secretary, and (B) in community-based facilities through contracts under section 1720 of this title.

(3) Domiciliary services under section 1710(b) of this title.

(4) Adult day health care under section 1720(f) of this title.

(5) Such other noninstitutional alternatives to nursing home care as the Secretary may furnish as medical services under section 1701(10) of this title.

(6) Respite care under section 1720B of this title.

(b) The Secretary shall ensure that the staffing and level of extended care services provided by the Secretary nationally in facilities of the Department during any fiscal year is not less than the staffing and level of such services provided nationally in facilities of the Department during fiscal year 1998.

(c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary may not furnish extended care services for a non-service-connected disability other than in the case of a veteran who has a compensable service-connected disability unless the veteran agrees to pay to the United States a copayment (determined in accordance with subsection (d)) for any period of such services in a year after the first 21 days of such services provided that veteran in that year.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply—

(A) to a veteran whose annual income (determined under section 1503 of this title) is less than the amount in effect under section 1521(b) of this title;

(B) to a veteran being furnished hospice care under this section; or

(C) with respect to an episode of extended care services that a veteran is being furnished by the Department on November 30, 1999.

(d)(1) A veteran who is furnished extended care services under this chapter and who is required under subsection (c) to pay an amount to the United States in order to be furnished such services shall be liable to the United States for that amount.

(2) In implementing subsection (c), the Secretary shall develop a methodology for establishing the amount of the copayment for which a veteran described in subsection (c) is liable. That methodology shall provide for—

(A) establishing a maximum monthly copayment (based on all income and assets of the veteran and the spouse of such veteran);

(B) protecting the spouse of a veteran from financial hardship by not counting all of the income and assets of the veteran and spouse (in the case of a spouse who resides in the community) as available for determining the copayment obligation; and

(C) allowing the veteran to retain a monthly personal allowance.

(e)(1) There is established in the Treasury of the United States a revolving fund known as the Department of Veterans Affairs Extended Care Fund (hereinafter in this section referred to as the "fund"). Amounts in the fund shall be available, without fiscal year limitation and without further appropriation, exclusively for the purpose of providing extended care services under subsection (a).

(2) All amounts received by the Department under this section shall be deposited in or credited to the fund.

(Added Pub. L. 106-117, title I, §101(c)(1), Nov. 30, 1999, 113 Stat. 1548; amended Pub. L. 107-14, §8(a)(2), (16), June 5, 2001, 115 Stat. 34, 35; Pub. L. 107-103, title V, §509(b), Dec. 27, 2001, 115 Stat. 997; Pub. L. 108-422, title II, §204, Nov. 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 2382.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2004—Subsec. (c)(2)(B), (C). Pub. L. 108-422 added subpar. (B) and redesignated former subpar. (B) as (C).

2001—Subsec. (c)(2)(B). Pub. L. 107-103 inserted "on" before "November 30, 1999".

Pub. L. 107-14, §8(a)(2), substituted "November 30, 1999" for "on the date of the enactment of the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act".

Subsec. (e)(1). Pub. L. 107-14, §8(a)(16), substituted "hereinafter" for "hereafter".

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2004 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 108-422, title IV, §411(f), (g), Nov. 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 2390, provided that:

"(f) CONTINGENT EFFECTIVENESS.—Subsection (d) [enacting provisions set out as a note under section 8118 of this title] and the amendments made by subsection (c) [repealing section 8116 of this title] shall take effect at the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs certifies to Congress that the Secretary is in compliance with subsection (b) of section 1710B of title 38, United States Code.

"(g) ANNUAL UPDATE.—Following a certification under subsection (f), the Secretary shall submit to Congress an annual update on that certification."

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 106-117, title I, §101(h), Nov. 30, 1999, 113 Stat. 1550, provided that:

"(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section [enacting this section and section 1710A of this title and amending sections 1701, 1710, 1720, 1720B and 1741 of this title] shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 30, 1999].

"(2) Subsection (c) of section 1710B of title 38, United States Code (as added by subsection (b)), shall take effect on the effective date of regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under subsections (c) and (d) of such section. The Secretary shall publish the effective date of such regulations in the Federal Register.

"(3) The provisions of section 1710(f) of title 38, United States Code, shall not apply to any day of nursing home care on or after the effective date of regulations under paragraph (2)."

#### PILOT PROGRAM ON IMPROVEMENT OF CAREGIVER ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Pub. L. 109-461, title II, §214, Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3423, provided that:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Commencing not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 22, 2006], the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of various mechanisms to expand and improve caregiver assistance services.

"(b) DURATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The pilot program required by subsection (a) shall be carried out during the two-year period beginning on the date of the commencement of the pilot program.

"(c) CAREGIVER ASSISTANCE SERVICES.—For purposes of this section, the term 'caregiver assistance services' means services of the Department of Veterans Affairs that assist caregivers of veterans. Such services including the following:

"(1) Adult-day health care services.

"(2) Coordination of services needed by veterans, including services for readjustment and rehabilitation.

"(3) Transportation services.

"(4) Caregiver support services, including education, training, and certification of family members in caregiver activities.

"(5) Home care services.

"(6) Respite care.

"(7) Hospice services.

"(8) Any modalities of non-institutional long-term care.

"(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 and 2008 to carry out the pilot program authorized by this section.

"(e) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO FACILITIES.—The Secretary shall allocate funds appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (d) to individual medical facilities of the Department in such amounts as the Secretary determines appropriate, based upon proposals submitted by such facilities for the use of such funds for improvements to the support

of the provision of caregiver assistance services. Special consideration should be given to rural facilities, including those without a long-term care facility of the Department.

“(f) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 22, 2006], the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the implementation of this section. The report shall include—

- “(1) a description and assessment of the activities carried out under the pilot program;
- “(2) information on the allocation of funds to facilities of the Department under subsection (e); and
- “(3) a description of the improvements made with funds so allocated to the support of the provision of caregiver assistance services.”

#### PILOT PROGRAMS RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE

Pub. L. 106-117, title I, §102, Nov. 30, 1999, 113 Stat. 1551, as amended by Pub. L. 108-422, title II, §203, Nov. 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 2382, provided that:

“(a) PILOT PROGRAMS.—The Secretary [of Veterans Affairs] shall carry out three pilot programs for the purpose of determining the effectiveness of different models of all-inclusive care-delivery in reducing the use of hospital and nursing home care by frail, elderly veterans.

“(b) LOCATIONS OF PILOT PROGRAMS.—In selecting locations in which the pilot programs will be carried out, the Secretary may not select more than one location in any given health care region of the Veterans Health Administration.

“(c) SCOPE OF SERVICES UNDER PILOT PROGRAMS.—Each of the pilot programs under this section shall be designed to provide participating veterans with integrated, comprehensive services which include the following:

- “(1) Adult-day health care services on an eight-hour per day, five-day per week basis.
- “(2) Medical services (including primary care, preventive services, and nursing home care, as needed).
- “(3) Coordination of needed services.
- “(4) Transportation services.
- “(5) Home care services.
- “(6) Respite care.

“(d) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the pilot programs under this section, the Secretary shall—

- “(1) employ the use of interdisciplinary care-management teams to provide the required array of services;
- “(2) determine the appropriate number of patients to be enrolled in each program and the criteria for enrollment; and
- “(3) ensure that funding for each program is based on the complex care category under the resource allocation system (known as the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation system) established pursuant to section 429 of Public Law 104-204 (110 Stat. 2929).

“(e) DESIGN OF PILOT PROGRAMS.—To the maximum extent feasible, the Secretary shall use the following three models in designing the three pilot programs under this section:

- “(1) Under one of the pilot programs, the Secretary shall provide services directly through facilities and personnel of the Department [of Veterans Affairs].
- “(2) Under one of the pilot programs, the Secretary shall provide services through a combination of—

“(A) services provided under contract with appropriate public and private entities; and

“(B) services provided through facilities and personnel of the Department.

“(3) Under one of the pilot programs, the Secretary shall arrange for the provision of services through a combination of—

“(A) services provided through cooperative arrangements with appropriate public and private entities; and

“(B) services provided through facilities and personnel of the Department.

“(f) IN-KIND ASSISTANCE.—In providing for the furnishing of services under a contract in carrying out the pilot program described in subsection (e)(2), the Secretary may, subject to reimbursement, provide in-kind assistance (through the services of Department employees and the sharing of other Department resources) to a facility furnishing care to veterans. Such reimbursement may be made by reduction in the charges to the Secretary under such contract.

“(g) LIMITATION.—In providing for the furnishing of services in carrying out a pilot program described in subsection (e)(2) or (e)(3), the Secretary shall make payment for services only to the extent that payment for such services is not otherwise covered (notwithstanding any provision of title XVIII or XIX of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq., 1396 et seq.]) by another government or nongovernment entity or program.

“(h) DURATION OF PROGRAMS.—(1) The authority of the Secretary to provide services under a pilot program under this section shall cease on the date that is three years after the date of the commencement of that pilot program.

“(2) In the case of a veteran who is participating in a pilot program under this section as of the end of the three-year period applicable to that pilot program under paragraph (1), the Secretary may continue to provide to that veteran any of the services that could be provided under the pilot program. The authority to provide services to any veteran under the preceding sentence applies during the period beginning on the date specified in paragraph (1) with respect to that pilot program and ending on December 31, 2005.

“(i) REPORT.—(1) Not later than nine months after the completion of all of the pilot programs under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on those programs.

“(2) The report shall include the following:

“(A) A description of the implementation and operation of each such program.

“(B) An analysis comparing use of institutional care and use of other services among enrollees in each of the pilot programs with the experience of comparable patients who are not enrolled in one of the pilot programs.

“(C) An assessment of the satisfaction of participating veterans with each of those programs.

“(D) An assessment of the health status of participating veterans in each of those programs and of the ability of those veterans to function independently.

“(E) An analysis of the costs and benefits under each of those programs.”

#### PILOT PROGRAM RELATING TO ASSISTED LIVING

Pub. L. 106-117, title I, §103, Nov. 30, 1999, 113 Stat. 1552, as amended by Pub. L. 108-170, title I, §107, Dec. 6, 2003, 117 Stat. 2046, provided that:

“(a) PROGRAM AUTHORITY.—The Secretary [of Veterans Affairs] may carry out a pilot program for the purpose of determining the feasibility and practicability of enabling eligible veterans to secure needed assisted living services as an alternative to nursing home care.

“(b) LOCATIONS OF PILOT PROGRAM.—(1) The pilot program shall be carried out in a designated health care region of the Department [of Veterans Affairs] selected by the Secretary for purposes of this section.

“(2)(A) In addition to the health care region of the Department selected for the pilot program under paragraph (1), the Secretary may also carry out the pilot program in not more than one additional designated health care region of the Department selected by the Secretary for purposes of this section.

“(B) Notwithstanding subsection (f), the authority of the Secretary to provide services under the pilot program in a health care region of the Department selected under subparagraph (A) shall cease on the date that is three years after the commencement of the provision of services under the pilot program in the health care region.

“(c) SCOPE OF PROGRAM.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary may enter into contracts with appropriate facilities for the provision for a period of up to six months of assisted living services on behalf of eligible veterans in the region where the program is carried out.

“(d) ELIGIBLE VETERANS.—A veteran is an eligible veteran for purposes of this section if the veteran—

“(1) is eligible for placement assistance by the Secretary under section 1730(a) of title 38, United States Code;

“(2) is unable to manage routine activities of daily living without supervision and assistance; and

“(3) could reasonably be expected to receive ongoing services after the end of the contract period under another government program or through other means.

“(e) REPORT.—(1) Not later than 90 days before the end of the pilot program under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the program.

“(2) The report under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) A description of the implementation and operation of the program.

“(B) An analysis comparing use of institutional care among participants in the program with the experience of comparable patients who are not enrolled in the program.

“(C) A comparison of assisted living services provided by the Department through the pilot program with domiciliary care provided by the Department.

“(D) The Secretary's recommendations, if any, regarding an extension of the program.

“(f) DURATION.—The authority of the Secretary to provide services under the pilot program shall cease on the date that is three years after the date of the commencement of the pilot program.

“(g) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘assisted living services’ means services in a facility that provides room and board and personal care for and supervision of residents as necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of residents.

“(h) STANDARDS.—The Secretary may not enter into a contract with a facility under this section unless the facility meets the standards established in regulations prescribed under section 1730 of title 38, United States Code.”

### § 1711. Care during examinations and in emergencies

(a) The Secretary may furnish hospital care incident to physical examinations where such examinations are necessary in carrying out the provisions of other laws administered by the Secretary.

[(b) Repealed. Pub. L. 107-135, title II, §208(d), Jan. 23, 2002, 115 Stat. 2463.]

(c)(1) The Secretary may contract with any organization named in, or approved by the Secretary under, section 5902 of this title to provide for the furnishing by the Secretary, on a reimbursable basis (as prescribed by the Secretary), of emergency medical services to individuals attending any national convention of such organization, except that reimbursement shall not be required for services furnished under this subsection to the extent that the individual receiving such services would otherwise be eligible under this chapter for medical services.

(2) The authority of the Secretary to enter into contracts under this subsection shall be effective for any fiscal year only to such extent or in such amounts as are provided in appropriation Acts.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1142, §611; Pub. L. 94-581, title II, §§202(e), 210(a)(2), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2856, 2862; Pub. L. 96-22, title II, §202, June 13, 1979, 93 Stat. 54; Pub. L. 96-128, title V, §501(a), Nov. 28, 1979, 93 Stat. 987; Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(d)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 239; renumbered §1711 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §§4(b)(1), (2)(E), 5(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404-406; Pub. L. 107-135, title II, §208(d), Jan. 23, 2002, 115 Stat. 2463.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior section 1711 was renumbered section 3511 of this title.

#### AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 107-135 struck out subsec. (b) which read as follows: “The Secretary may furnish hospital care or medical services as a humanitarian service in emergency cases, but the Secretary shall charge for such care at rates prescribed by the Secretary.”

1991—Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), renumbered section 611 of this title as this section.

Pub. L. 102-83, §4(b)(1), (2)(E), substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” wherever appearing.

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 102-40 substituted “5902” for “3402”.

1979—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 96-22 added subsec. (c).

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 96-128 substituted “named in, or approved by the Administrator under,” for “recognized by the Administrator for the purposes of”.

1976—Pub. L. 94-581, §202(e)(1), substituted “Care” for “Hospitalization” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94-581, §210(a)(2)(A), substituted “administered by the Administrator” for “administered by him”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 94-581, §§202(e)(2), 210(a)(2)(B), substituted “hospital care or medical services” for “hospital care”, “the Administrator shall charge” for “he shall charge”, and “prescribed by the Administrator” for “prescribed by him”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1979 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-128 effective Nov. 28, 1979, see section 601(b) of Pub. L. 96-128, set out as a note under section 1114 of this title.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-581 effective Oct. 21, 1976, see section 211 of Pub. L. 94-581, set out as a note under section 111 of this title.

### § 1712. Dental care; drugs and medicines for certain disabled veterans; vaccines

(a)(1) Outpatient dental services and treatment, and related dental appliances, shall be furnished under this section only for a dental condition or disability—

(A) which is service-connected and compensable in degree;

(B) which is service-connected, but not compensable in degree, but only if—

(i) the dental condition or disability is shown to have been in existence at the time of the veteran's discharge or release from active military, naval, or air service;

(ii) the veteran had served on active duty for a period of not less than 180 days or, in the case of a veteran who served on active duty during the Persian Gulf War, 90 days immediately before such discharge or release;

(iii) application for treatment is made within 90 days after such discharge or re-