

Another prior section 1778 was renumbered section 1779 of this title.

Prior sections 1779 and 1780 were renumbered sections 3679 and 3680 of this title, respectively.

SUBCHAPTER VIII—HEALTH CARE OF PERSONS OTHER THAN VETERANS

§ 1781. Medical care for survivors and dependents of certain veterans

(a) The Secretary is authorized to provide medical care, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, for—

(1) the spouse or child of a veteran who has a total disability, permanent in nature, resulting from a service-connected disability,

(2) the surviving spouse or child of a veteran who (A) died as a result of a service-connected disability, or (B) at the time of death had a total disability permanent in nature, resulting from a service-connected disability, and

(3) the surviving spouse or child of a person who died in the active military, naval, or air service in the line of duty and not due to such person's own misconduct,

who are not otherwise eligible for medical care under chapter 55 of title 10 (CHAMPUS).

(b) In order to accomplish the purposes of subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall provide for medical care in the same or similar manner and subject to the same or similar limitations as medical care is furnished to certain dependents and survivors of active duty and retired members of the Armed Forces under chapter 55 of title 10 (CHAMPUS), by—

(1) entering into an agreement with the Secretary of Defense under which that Secretary shall include coverage for such medical care under the contract, or contracts, that Secretary enters into to carry out such chapter 55, and under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall fully reimburse the Secretary of Defense for all costs and expenditures made for the purposes of affording the medical care authorized pursuant to this section; or

(2) contracting in accordance with such regulations as the Secretary shall prescribe for such insurance, medical service, or health plans as the Secretary deems appropriate.

In cases in which Department medical facilities are equipped to provide the care and treatment, the Secretary is also authorized to carry out such purposes through the use of such facilities not being utilized for the care of eligible veterans. A dependent or survivor receiving care under the preceding sentence shall be eligible for the same medical services as a veteran, including services under sections 1782 and 1783 of this title.

(c) For the purposes of this section, a child between the ages of eighteen and twenty-three (1) who is eligible for benefits under subsection (a) of this section, (2) who is pursuing a full-time course of instruction at an educational institution approved under chapter 36 of this title, and (3) who, while pursuing such course of instruction, incurs a disabling illness or injury (including a disabling illness or injury incurred between terms, semesters, or quarters or during a vacation or holiday period) which is not the re-

sult of such child's own willful misconduct and which results in such child's inability to continue or resume such child's chosen program of education at an approved educational institution shall remain eligible for benefits under this section until the end of the six-month period beginning on the date the disability is removed, the end of the two-year period beginning on the date of the onset of the disability, or the twenty-third birthday of the child, whichever occurs first.

(d)(1)(A) An individual otherwise eligible for medical care under this section who is also entitled to hospital insurance benefits under part A of the medicare program is eligible for medical care under this section only if the individual is also enrolled in the supplementary medical insurance program under part B of the medicare program.

(B) The limitation in subparagraph (A) does not apply to an individual who—

(i) has attained 65 years of age as of June 5, 2001; and

(ii) is not enrolled in the supplementary medical insurance program under part B of the medicare program as of that date.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), if an individual described in paragraph (1) receives medical care for which payment may be made under both this section and the medicare program, the amount payable for such medical care under this section shall be the amount by which (A) the costs for such medical care exceed (B) the sum of—

(i) the amount payable for such medical care under the medicare program; and

(ii) the total amount paid or payable for such medical care by third party payers other than the medicare program.

(3) The amount payable under this subsection for medical care may not exceed the total amount that would be paid under subsection (b) if payment for such medical care were made solely under subsection (b).

(4) In this subsection:

(A) The term "medicare program" means the program of health insurance administered by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.).

(B) The term "third party" has the meaning given that term in section 1729(i)(3) of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 93-82, title I, §103(b), Aug. 2, 1973, 87 Stat. 181, §613; amended Pub. L. 94-581, title I, §104, title II, §210(a)(4), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2845, 2862; Pub. L. 96-151, title II, §205(a), Dec. 20, 1979, 93 Stat. 1094; Pub. L. 97-72, title I, §105, Nov. 3, 1981, 95 Stat. 1050; Pub. L. 97-251, §5(a), Sept. 8, 1982, 96 Stat. 716; renumbered §1713 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §§4(a)(3), (4), (b)(1), (2)(B), (E), 5(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404-406; Pub. L. 102-190, div. A, title VII, §704(b)(2), Dec. 5, 1991, 105 Stat. 1402; Pub. L. 107-14, §3, June 5, 2001, 115 Stat. 25; renumbered §1781 and amended Pub. L. 107-135, title II, §208(c), Jan. 23, 2002, 115 Stat. 2463; Pub. L. 107-330, title III, §308(g)(8), Dec. 6, 2002, 116 Stat. 2829.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Social Security Act, referred to in subsec. (d)(4)(A), is act Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, 49 Stat. 620, as

amended. Title XVIII of the Act is classified generally to subchapter XVIII (§1395 et seq.) of chapter 7 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1305 of Title 42 and Tables.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1781 was renumbered section 3681 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2002—Pub. L. 107-135, §208(c)(1), (2), renumbered section 1713 of this title as this section.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 107-135, §208(c)(3), inserted at end “A dependent or survivor receiving care under the preceding sentence shall be eligible for the same medical services as a veteran, including services under sections 1782 and 1783 of this title.”

Subsec. (d)(1)(B)(i). Pub. L. 107-330, §308(g)(8)(A), substituted “as of June 5, 2001” for “as of the date of the enactment of the Veterans' Survivor Benefits Improvements Act of 2001”.

Subsec. (d)(4). Pub. L. 107-330, §308(g)(8)(B), substituted “subsection” for “paragraph” in introductory provisions.

2001—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 107-14 amended subsec. (d) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (d) read as follows: “Notwithstanding section 1086(d)(1) of title 10 or any other provision of law, any spouse, surviving spouse, or child who, after losing eligibility for medical care under this section by virtue of becoming entitled to hospital insurance benefits under part A of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395c et seq.), has exhausted any such benefits shall become eligible for medical care under this section and shall not thereafter lose such eligibility under this section by virtue of becoming again eligible for such hospital insurance benefits.”

1991—Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), renumbered section 613 of this title as this section.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102-83, §4(b)(1), (2)(E), substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 102-83, §4(b)(2)(B), substituted “that Secretary” for second and third references to “the Secretary” and “the Secretary of Defense” for last reference to “the Secretary” in par. (1).

Pub. L. 102-83, §4(b)(1), (2)(E), substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” wherever appearing in introductory and concluding provisions and in par. (2).

Pub. L. 102-83, §4(a)(3), (4), substituted “Department” for “Veterans' Administration” in concluding provisions.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 102-190 substituted “section 1086(d)(1)” for “the second sentence of section 1086(c)”.

1982—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 97-251 added subsec. (d).

1981—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 97-72 substituted “equipped to provide the care and treatment” for “particularly equipped to provide the most effective care and treatment” in provisions following par. (2).

1979—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 96-151, §205(a)(1), in cl. (1) substituted reference to spouse for reference to wife, in cl. (2) substituted reference to surviving spouse for reference to widow, and added cl. (3).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 96-151, §205(a)(2), added subsec. (c).

1976—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 94-581, §104, designated existing provisions as cl. (A) and added cl. (B).

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 94-581, §210(a)(4)(A), substituted “the Secretary enters” for “he enters”.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 94-581, §210(a)(4)(B), substituted “the Administrator” for “he” in two places.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1982 AMENDMENT

Section 5(b) of Pub. L. 97-251 provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall take effect on October 1, 1982.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1979 AMENDMENT

Section 205(b) of Pub. L. 96-151 provided that: “The amendments made by subsection (a) [amending this

section] shall take effect with respect to fiscal year 1980 only to such extent and for such amounts as may be specifically provided for such purpose in appropriation Acts.”

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.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Sept. 1, 1973, see section 501 of Pub. L. 93-82, set out as an Effective Date of 1973 Amendment note under section 1701 of this title.

§ 1782. Counseling, training, and mental health services for immediate family members

(a) COUNSELING FOR FAMILY MEMBERS OF VETERANS RECEIVING SERVICE-CONNECTED TREATMENT.—In the case of a veteran who is receiving treatment for a service-connected disability pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) of section 1710(a) of this title, the Secretary shall provide to individuals described in subsection (c) such consultation, professional counseling, marriage and family counseling, training, and mental health services as are necessary in connection with that treatment.

(b) COUNSELING FOR FAMILY MEMBERS OF VETERANS RECEIVING NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED TREATMENT.—In the case of a veteran who is eligible to receive treatment for a non-service-connected disability under the conditions described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of section 1710(a) of this title, the Secretary may, in the discretion of the Secretary, provide to individuals described in subsection (c) such consultation, professional counseling, marriage and family counseling, training, and mental health services as are necessary in connection with that treatment.

(c) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—Individuals who may be provided services under this subsection are—

- (1) the members of the immediate family or the legal guardian of a veteran; or
- (2) the individual in whose household such veteran certifies an intention to live.

(d) TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZED.—Services provided under subsections (a) and (b) may include, under the terms and conditions set forth in section 111 of this title, travel and incidental expenses of individuals described in subsection (c) in the case of any of the following:

- (1) A veteran who is receiving care for a service-connected disability.
- (2) A dependent or survivor receiving care under the last sentence of section 1783(b) of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 107-135, title II, §208(b), Jan. 23, 2002, 115 Stat. 2462; amended Pub. L. 110-387, title III, §301(a)(2), Oct. 10, 2008, 122 Stat. 4120.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1782 was renumbered section 3682 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 110-387, §301(a)(2)(A), inserted “marriage and family counseling,” after “professional counseling.”