OMB Control Number: 2900–0697.
Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.
Abstract: The data collected will be used to determine whether licensing and certification tests, and the organizations offering them, should be approved for VA training under education programs VA administers.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The Federal Register Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on June 18, 2013, at pages 36641–36642.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.
Estimated Annual Burden: 1,593 hours.
Frequency of Response: On occasion.
Estimated Average Burden per Respondents: 3 hours.
Estimated Annual Responses: 531.
By direction of the Secretary.

Crystal Rennie,
VA Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Reasonable Charges for Inpatient MS–DRGs and SNF Medical Services:
V3.13, Fiscal Year 2014 Update

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Section 17.101 of Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations sets forth the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical regulations concerning “Reasonable Charges” for medical care or services provided or furnished by VA to a Veteran:
—For a non-service-connected disability for which the Veteran is entitled to care (or the payment of expenses of care) under a health plan contract;
—For a non-service-connected disability incurred incident to the Veteran’s employment and covered under a worker’s compensation law or plan that provides reimbursement or indemnification for such care and services; or
—For a non-service-connected disability incurred as a result of a motor vehicle accident in a State that requires automobile accident reparations insurance.

The regulations include methodologies for establishing billed amounts for the following types of charges: Acute inpatient facility charges; skilled nursing facility/sub-acute inpatient facility charges; partial hospitalization facility charges; outpatient facility charges; physician and other professional charges, including professional charges for anesthesia services and dental services; pathology and laboratory charges; observation care facility charges; ambulance and other emergency transportation charges; and charges for durable medical equipment, drugs, injectables, and other medical services, items, and supplies identified by HCPCS Level II codes. These outpatient facility charges and professional charges remain the same as set forth in a notice published in the Federal Register on December 20, 2012 (77 FR 75499).

Based on the methodologies set forth in 38 CFR 17.101(b), this document provides an update to acute inpatient charges that were based on 2013 Medicare severity diagnosis related groups (MS–DRG). Acute inpatient facility charges by MS–DRGs are set forth in Table A and are posted on the Internet site of VHA’s Chief Business Office, currently at http://www1.va.gov/CBO/apps/rates/index.asp, under “Reasonable Charges Data Tables.” This Table A corresponds to the Table A referenced in the September 7, 2012, Federal Register notice. Table A referenced in this notice (V3.13) provides updated charges based on 2014 MS–DRGs and will replace Table A posted on the Internet site of VHA’s Chief Business Office, which corresponds to the Table A referenced in the September 7, 2012, Federal Register notice.

Also, this document provides for an updated all-inclusive per diem charge for skilled nursing facility/sub-acute inpatient facility charge using the methodologies set forth in 38 CFR 17.101(c), and it is adjusted by a geographic area factor based on the location where the care is provided (See Table “N” Acute Inpatient and Table “O” Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) geographic factors found on Web site under “Reasonable Charges Data Tables.”) The skilled nursing facility/sub-acute inpatient facility per diem charge is set forth in Table B and is posted on the Internet site of VHA’s Chief Business Office, currently at http://www1.va.gov/CBO/apps/rates/index.asp, under “Reasonable Charges Data Tables.” This Table B corresponds to the Table B referenced in the September 7, 2012, Federal Register notice. Table B referenced in this notice provides updated all-inclusive nationwide skilled nursing facility/sub-acute inpatient facility per diem charge and will replace Table B posted on the Internet site of VHA’s Chief Business Office, which corresponds to the Table B referenced in the September 7, 2012, Federal Register notice.

The charges in this update for acute inpatient facility and skilled nursing facility/sub-acute inpatient facility services are effective October 1, 2013.

In this update, we are retaining the table designations used for acute inpatient facility charges by MS–DRGs which is posted on the Internet site of VHA’s Chief Business Office, currently
at http://www1.va.gov/CBO/apps/rates/index.asp, under “Reasonable Charges Data Tables.” We also are retaining the table designation used for skilled nursing facility/sub-acute inpatient facility charges which is posted on the Internet site of the VHA Chief Business Office, currently at http://www1.va.gov/CBO/apps/rates/index.asp, under “Reasonable Charges Data Tables.” Accordingly, the tables identified as being updated by this notice correspond to the applicable tables referenced in the September 7, 2012, Federal Register notice.

The list of data sources presented in Supplementary Table 1 will be posted on the Internet site of the VHA Chief Business Office, currently at http://www1.va.gov/CBO/apps/rates/index.asp, under “Reasonable Charges Data Sources” to reflect the updated data sources used to establish the updated charges described in this notice.

We have also updated the list of VA medical facility locations. As a reminder, in Supplementary Table 3 posted on the internet site of the VHA Chief Business Office, currently at http://www1.va.gov/CBO/apps/rates/index.asp, under “VA Medical Facility Locations,” we set forth the list of VA medical facility locations, which includes the first three digits of their zip codes and provider-based/non-provider-based designations.

Consistent with VA’s regulations, the updated data tables and supplementary tables containing the changes described in this notice will be posted on the Internet site of VHA’s Chief Business Office, “Reasonable Charges (Rates) Information” page currently at http://www1.va.gov/CBO/apps/rates/index.asp.

Approved: September 17, 2013.

Jose D. Riojas,
Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs.

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