

**HEALTH CARE FOR UNITED STATES VETERANS AT THE MANILA VA
OUTPATIENT CLINIC**

1. SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES: None.

2. RELATED ISSUES: None.

3. POLICY OWNER: The Office of the Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Operations, Health Care Operations Center (15HOC) is responsible for the content of this VHA directive. Questions may be addressed to VHA15HOCHealthcareOpsCtrAction@va.gov.

4. RESCISSIONS: VHA Directive 1521, Outpatient Health Care for United States Veterans Residing in or visiting the Philippines at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Clinic in Manila, dated February 5, 2018, is rescinded.

5. RECERTIFICATION: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) directive is scheduled for recertification on or before the last working day of March 2029. This VHA directive will continue to serve as national VHA policy until it is recertified or rescinded.

6. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE: This directive is effective upon publication.

**BY DIRECTION OF THE OFFICE OF THE
UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH:**

/s/ RimaAnn O. Nelson
Assistant Under Secretary for Health
for Operations

NOTE: All reference herein to VA and VHA documents incorporate by reference subsequent VA and VHA documents on the same or similar subject matter.

DISTRIBUTION: Emailed to the VHA Publications Distribution List on March 26, 2024.

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OUTPATIENT HEALTH CARE FOR UNITED STATES VETERANS AT THE MANILA VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

1. POLICY

It is Veterans Health Administration (VHA) policy that United States Veterans receive care and services for a Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) adjudicated service-connected disability at the Manila VA Outpatient Clinic, and that service-connected Veterans be treated for non-service-connected disabilities within the limits of the Manila VA Outpatient Clinic. **NOTE:** *Beneficiary travel reimbursement is not authorized in any foreign country. VA rated, service-connected health care not available within the limits of the clinic may be provided through the Foreign Medical Program.* **AUTHORITY:** 38 U.S.C § 1724.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

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

b. **Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Operations.** The Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Operations is responsible for:

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

(2) Assisting the VISN 21 Director to resolve implementation and compliance challenges at the Manila VA Outpatient Clinic.

(3) Providing oversight of VISN 21 to ensure compliance with this directive and its effectiveness, relevant standards and compliance with 38 C.F.R. § 17.35.

c. **Foreign Medical Program.** The Executive Director, Office of Integrated Veteran Care, provides oversight to FMP as outlined in VHA Directive 1601F.05(1), Hospital Care and Medical Services in Foreign Countries, dated October 19, 2021. FMP has the responsibility for providing the necessary treatment for a service-connected disability, or any disability associated with and held to be aggravated by a service-connected disability, to all Veterans residing in the Philippines, when care is not available at the Manila VA Outpatient Clinic.

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

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

(2) Providing oversight for VISN 21 compliance with this directive and its effectiveness, relevant standards and compliance with 38 C.F.R. § 17.35.

(3) Collaborating with the Manila VA Outpatient Clinic Director to develop corrective action plans when necessary and ensuring corrective actions are taken when non-compliance is identified.

e. **Manila VA Outpatient Clinic Director.** The Manila VA Outpatient Clinic Director is responsible for:

(1) Collaborating with the VISN 21 Director to determine the capabilities of the Manila VA Outpatient Clinic.

(2) Ensuring that available services are provided to Veterans who are eligible for those services.

(3) Ensuring overall Manila VA Outpatient Clinic compliance with this directive and informing, and collaborating with the VISN 21 Director to develop corrective action plans if barriers to compliance are identified.

3. TRAINING

There are no formal training requirements associated with this directive.

4. RECORDS MANAGEMENT

All records regardless of format (for example, paper, electronic, electronic systems) created by this directive must be managed as required by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) approved records schedules found in VHA Records Control Schedule 10-1. Questions regarding any aspect of records management can be addressed to the appropriate Records Officer.

5. DEFINITIONS

a. **Manila VA Outpatient Clinic.** The Manila VA Outpatient Clinic is 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 Outpatient Clinic.** “Within the limits of the Manila VA Outpatient Clinic” means health care services directly provided by the clinic consistent with its available capacity and resources.

c. **Foreign Medical Program.** FMP is a VA health care benefits program for 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 by a VA-rated, service-connected disability, or to a Veteran participating in a rehabilitation program under 38 U.S.C. Chapter 31. 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 Directive 1601F.05(1).

d. **Service-Connected Disability.** For purposes of this directive, a service-connected disability is a condition rated by VA as 0-100% compensable due to having been incurred or aggravated in line of duty in the active military, naval or air service as outlined in VHA Directive 1601F.05(1) and consistent with 38 U.S.C. § 101. Veterans must be rated by VA for a service-connected disability (0-100%) to be eligible for care in the Manila VA medical facility and to participate in 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.

6. REFERENCES

- a. 38 U.S.C. § 101.
- b. 38 U.S.C. § 1724.
- c. 38 U.S.C. Chapter 31.
- d. 38 C.F.R § 17.35.
- e. VHA Directive 1601F.05(1), Hospital Care and Medical Services in Foreign Countries, dated October 19, 2021.