

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR 2900-0629
VA FORM 10-10EC, APPLICATION FOR EXTENDED CARE SERVICES**

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection of information.

Title 38 U.S.C. Chapter 17 authorizes VA to provide hospital care, medical services, domiciliary care and nursing home care to eligible veterans. Title 38 U.S.C. § 1705 requires VA to design, establish and operate a system of annual patient enrollment in accordance with a series of stipulated priorities. A consequence of this is that many groups of veterans who are in a lower priority group (WWI veterans, veterans with disabilities rated as 0% service-connected seeking treatment for other than their service-connected conditions, veterans exposed to a toxic substance, radiation, or environmental hazard and nonservice-connected veterans) may request that they be allowed to be income tested in order to gain a higher priority. Title 38 U.S.C. § 1722 establishes eligibility assessment procedures for cost-free VA medical care, based on income levels, which will determine whether nonservice-connected and 0% service-connected noncompensable veterans are able to defray the necessary expenses of care for nonservice-connected conditions. Title 38 U.S.C. § 1722A establishes the eligibility assessment procedures, based on income levels, for determining veterans' eligibility for cost-free medications and Title 38 U.S.C. § 1710B defines the procedures for establishing eligibility for cost-free Extended Care benefits. Title 38 U.S.C § 1729 authorizes VA to recover from veterans' health insurance carriers the cost of care furnished for their nonservice-connected conditions

VA Form 10-10EC, Application for Extended Care Services is used to collect financial information necessary to determine a veteran's eligibility for cost-free extended care benefits. VA Form 10-10EC will only be completed when a non-service connected veteran applies for care for treatment provided under provisions of Extended Care Services. This form will be updated at least annually or at anytime during the year, when financial commitments have changed that would change or eliminate extended care services copays.

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purposes the information is to be used; indicate actual use the agency has made of the information received from current collection.

The VA Forms 10-10EZ, Application for Health Benefits (OMB Approval Number 2900-0091), and 10-10EC, Application for Extended Care Services, collect financial information from veterans and veteran's spouses in order to determine copay obligations for veterans applying for Extended Care Services. The VA Form 10-10EC is generally completed by the veteran, spouse, or relative with the assistance of the Social Worker involved in the placement of the veteran.

The VA Form 10-10EZ collects the veteran's prior year financial information. If the veteran's income is below the single veteran pension rate, the veteran is determined to be exempt from long term care copays. If the veteran's income is above the single veteran pension rate, VA Form 10-10EC is used to gather their current income/financial information to determine the copay amount the veteran would be charged if receiving Extended Care Services.

- Establish eligibility for Extended Care Benefits
- Establish financial liability, if any, of veteran to pay if accepted for placement in Extended Care Services.

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- Establish that patient has agreed to make the applicable copays for extended care services as required.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.

The burden to the public has been kept to a minimum. Veterans seeking Extended Care Services will be required to submit financial information on VA Form 10-10EC only if their prior year financial information provided on VA Form 10-10EZ indicates they are likely to be subject to Extended Care copays. After completion of a risk analysis and a cost benefit analysis, it was determined that it was not cost effective to automate submission of the form by the veteran as it is generally completed with the assistance of a social worker.

4. Describe effort to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purpose described in Item 2 above.

VA Form 10-10EC will be used to collect veteran financial information at the time the veteran is requesting placement for Extended Care Services. Veterans NOT requiring or requesting placement in Extended Care will not be required to furnish this information. Veterans requesting Extended Care Benefits will have a VA Form 10-10EZ on file. VA Form 10-10EZ will be used to originally collect information, including prior year financial information, for veterans seeking medical benefits. The 10-10EC will gather current financial, asset and expense information for use in determining the amount or copayment due (if any). Financial information will be obtained and retained locally. The information for living and subsistence expenses is not currently obtained in any other format.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.

No small business or other small entities are impacted by this information collection.

6. Describe the consequences to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reduce burden.

The VA Form 10-10EC will only be completed when a veteran with prior year income above the single pension rate requests placement or treatment for these benefits. Extended Care Benefits include: Adult Day Health Care, Domiciliary Care, Institutional Respite Care, Institutional Geriatric Evaluation, Non-institutional Geriatric Evaluation, Non-institutional Respite Care and Nursing Home Care.

Failure to complete the VA Form 10-10EC would restrict determination of a veteran's eligibility for VA Extended Care Benefits. Veterans may elect not to disclose financial information, but must agree to make the applicable copays for extended care services as required.

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7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause information collection to be conducted more often than quarterly or require respondents to prepare written responses to collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it; submit more than an original and two copies of any document; retain records, other than health, medical government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years; in connection with a statistical survey that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study and require the use of a statistical data classification that has not been review and approved by OMB.

There are no such circumstances.

8a. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the sponsor's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the sponsor in responses to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.

The notice of Proposed Information Collection Activity was published in the Federal Register on January 31, 2008, pages 5913 - 5914. There were no comments received in response to this notice.

8b. Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, clarity of instructions and record keeping, disclosure or reporting format, and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed or reported. Explain any circumstances, which preclude consultation every three years with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained.

Outside consultation is conducted with the public through the 60- and 30-day Federal Register notices. There were no comments received.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payment or gift is provided to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

Assurances of confidentiality are contained in 38 U.S.C. 5701 and 7332. Respondents are informed that the information collected will become part of the Consolidated Health Record, which complies with the Privacy Act of 1974. This form is part of the system of records identified as 24VA136 "Patient Medical Record – VA" as set forth in the 2003 Compilation of Privacy Act Issuances via online GPO access at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/2003_pa.html. Financial information gathered on VA Form 10-10EC will be maintained in the system identified as 89VA161 "Health Eligibility Records – VA" in the 2003 Compilation of Privacy Act Issuances via online GPO access at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/2003_pa.html.

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11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private; include specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

VA Form 10-10EC collects financial information relative to a veteran's household income, assets, net worth and subsistence expenses, which may be considered sensitive. This information is necessary to make a determination of the veteran's ability to pay for the cost of Extended Care Services. This information is also requested in order to protect veteran spouse or dependent from financial hardship caused by extended care copays.

12. Estimate of the hour burden of the collection of information:

a. The annual hour burden for this collection is 9,000 hours.

6,000 patients/year X 90 minutes to gather information & complete form / by 60 minutes

b. If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens in Item 13 of OMB 83-I.

This request covers only one form.

c. Provide estimates of annual cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here. Instead, this cost should be included in Item 14.

The cost to the respondents for completing these forms is \$135,000 (9,000 hours x \$15 per hour). We do not require any additional record keeping.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in Items 12 and 14).

- a. There is no capital, start-up operation or maintenance costs.
- b. Cost estimates are not expected to vary widely. The cost is that for the time of the respondent.
- c. There are no anticipated capital start-up cost components or requests to provide information.

14. Provide estimates of annual cost to the Federal Government.

Printing and Distribution	\$2,500
6,000 forms x \$24.76 (GS 11/4 Social Worker) to gather & enter data x 45 min.	\$111,420
TOTAL	\$113,920

15. Explain the reason for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of OMB 83-I.

There is no change in burden.

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16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication.

There are no plans to publish the result of the information collected.

17. If seeking approval to omit the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

We request approval to omit the expiration date for the OMB approval from VA Form 10-10EC. Since the form is stocked at each by service organizations, field facilities and the Forms and Publications Depot, displaying the expiration date would result in the waste of existing stock every three years. Since the form has not changed, it is possible for a respondent to become confused when they see a form showing an expired OMB approval. Therefore, VA seeks to minimize its cost to itself of collecting, processing and using the information by not displaying the expiration date. For the reasons stated, VA seeks an exemption that waives the displaying of the expiration date on the form.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19, “ Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions,” of OMB 83-I.

There are no exceptions.

B. COLLECIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

No statistical methods are used in this data collection.