

VETERANS UPDATE

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COPAY CHANGE FOR OUTPATIENT MEDS



VA is changing outpatient medication copayments for non-service-connected conditions.

Three classes of outpatient medications and copayment amounts will be established by the new regulation, which will be effective Feb. 27, 2017:

- Tier 1, Preferred Generics, \$5 for a 30-day supply or less
- Tier 2, Non-Preferred Generics, including over-the-counter, \$8

for a 30-day supply or less

- Tier 3, Brand Name, \$11 for a 30-day supply or less

The proposed new copayment structure will decrease the costs of outpatient medications for most Veterans, and those with more outpatient medication copayments will realize greater cost savings.

The changes will apply to Veterans without a service-connected condition, or those with a disability

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 24, 2 - 3:30 p.m.
VBA & VAMC Joint Veteran Town Hall Meeting
5th Floor Auditorium. Join leadership for an update and ask questions.

rated at less than 50 percent who are receiving outpatient treatment for a non-service connected condition and whose annual income exceeds the limit set by law. Those exempt by law from copayments would continue to be exempt.

Copayments stop each calendar year for those in Priority Groups 2 to 8 when a \$700 cap is reached.

For more information, visit <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-12/pdf/2016-29515.pdf>

HELP VA WIN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV AND AIDS

The Veterans Health Administration cares for the largest population of HIV-infected individuals in the U.S. - more than 27,000 Veterans in 2015 - and remains committed to early diagnosis and treatment for all HIV-positive Veterans.

You can help! Get tested; VA recommends that all patients who receive medical care participate in voluntary HIV testing — even those who do not think that they are at risk. Tell a friend to get tested; only 38 percent of Veterans in VA care have been tested!

HIV is a virus that attacks the immune system, weakening the body's defenses. AIDS is the most advanced stage of HIV infection, when the immune system becomes so weak it cannot fight off certain other infections and cancers. There are many effective treatments now that can help, but getting diagnosed and treated early is critical.



GIFTS FOR VETERAN FAMILIES IN NEED



Stacks of games, crafts and puzzles at the Providence VA Medical Center warehouse Dec. 13, 2016, waiting for VA social workers to pick them up and deliver them to Veteran families in need. In all, an estimated \$60,000 worth of toys and games were collected by VA employees, volunteers, Veterans, and a private donor wishing to be identified only as "Sailor Claus," who collected toys from organizations across Fall River, New Bedford and the surrounding area. (Providence VA Medical Center photo by Winfield Danielson)

The Providence VA Medical Center distributed an estimated \$60,000 worth of toys, bikes and games provided by VA employees, volunteers, Veterans and other donors to Veteran families in need during the week of Dec. 14, 2016.

"What better way to serve Veterans than helping to bring them the joy of happy children during the holidays?" asked Donna Russillo, chief of the Voluntary Service at the Providence VAMC, who coordinated the toy drive.

The drive began with a "Giving Tree" placed in the medical center's 5th floor, e-wing elevator lobby Nov. 29. Decorated with paper ornaments identifying the ages, genders, sizes and wish-lists of the children of Veterans, VA staff members could choose a family to sponsor, either individually or as part of a group. The sponsor then contacted the referring social worker listed on the ornament and arranged to

provide the unwrapped gifts.

Simultaneously, a private donor wishing to be identified only as "Sailor Claus" collected toys, bikes and games donated in memory of Jeanine Arseneault of New Bedford, Mass., who passed away Nov. 6, from drop-boxes at organizations across Fall River, New Bedford and the surrounding area. The Dirty River Group, a Fall River motorcycle club, helped collect and deliver the items, which were brought to the Providence VAMC warehouse Dec. 12, where social workers and other VA staff could select gifts for the Veteran families with whom they work.

"The Giving Tree is one of those things that helps make the Providence VA Medical Center a special place for both Veterans and employees," said Dr. Susan MacKenzie, director of the Providence VAMC. "It's an honor to help brighten the holidays for Veteran families who have sacrificed so much in service to our nation."



Providence VA Medical Center

830 Chalkstone Ave
Providence, RI 02908
401-273-7100

Veteran's Crisis Line:
800-273-8255 press 1

Patient Call Center (PCC):
401-457-3336

Pharmacy Call Center:
866-400-1241

Community Care /
Veteran's Choice Office
401-273-7100 ext. 3015

Account Balances:
401-457-3344

Providence VBA Regional Office
401-273-7100 ext. 3107

Website:
www.providence.va.gov

Facebook:
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Twitter:
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