

Operations Memorandum - Medicaid OPS110301

March 2, 2011

SUBJECT: Enhanced Veterans Reimbursement (EVR) Initiative
TO: Executive Directors
FROM: Lourdes Padilla , Acting Director, Bureau of Operations

Purpose

To provide an overview of the EVR initiative, as well as the new EVR categories and facility code.

Background

EVR is an initiative that was implemented in order to reduce Long Term Care (LTC) costs to the State incurred by individuals residing in a veterans home. The six veterans homes located in the Commonwealth include: Southwestern Veterans Center (Allegheny County), Hollidaysburg Veterans Home (Blair County), Southeastern Veterans Center (Chester County), PA Soldiers and Sailors Home (Erie County), Gino Merli Veterans Center (Lackawanna County), and the Delaware Valley Veterans Home (Philadelphia County). These facilities, administered by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, provide personal care, skilled nursing care, domiciliary care, and dementia care to veterans and their spouses. These six facilities have been certified as Medical Assistance (MA) providers by the Department of Public Welfare (DPW). By certifying these homes as MA providers, eligible residents may be authorized for MA and payment of LTC services. Through this initiative, the State will be eligible to receive the federal matching share of MA funding for these eligible veterans home residents.

Discussion

All EVR cases will be handled by the Central Unit (CU). The CU is responsible for determining eligibility as well as for ongoing case maintenance. The CU will also handle all questions and inquiries related to the EVR program. The statewide change center will not be involved in this initiative. If one of the six veterans homes submits an application to a County Assistance Office (CAO), the CAO must send the application and all accompanying documentation to the CU. The CU address is:

DPW/OIM/Central Unit
P.O. Box 2675

1401 N. 7th Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2675

To qualify for the EVR initiative, a person must be residing in the domiciliary care or skilled portion of one of the State's six veterans homes. The veterans home will send the Medical Evaluation (MA 51) and the Application for Benefits (PA 600L) for any resident who is potentially eligible for MA LTC to the CU. The CU will determine eligibility for MA LTC according to current MA LTC policy and procedures. If the person is eligible for MA LTC, the CU will authorize benefits in a PVN or TVN category. There is no category distinction based on the age of the individual. Program status codes 00, 66 and 80 are applicable. Facility code 32 (VA LTC Facility) has been created to distinguish veterans' homes from other institutions in the Client Information System.

If a person applying for MA LTC in a veterans home is already receiving MA or MA LTC and the CAO receives notification from the individual or individual's representative that the individual has entered skilled nursing in the veterans home, the CAO should follow current inter-county transfer procedures using County #23 and District #3.

If the CU receives notification that an individual who is receiving MA or MA LTC has entered a veterans home, the CU will request closure of the case so that MA LTC can be processed in County #23 District #3.

Next Steps

1. Review this document with appropriate staff for the implementation of the EVR initiative.
2. Direct questions or concerns to Dale Hornberger at (717) 772-6646.
3. This memorandum will remain in effect until further notice.