



Post Service Officers Report

May 23, 2016

➤ **Veterans with Incomplete Health Care Applications Receive Year to Enroll**

- The (VA) announced today it will extend the healthcare enrollment application period for one year to approximately 545,000 living Veterans that have pending incomplete enrollment applications.
- “Fixing the Veterans enrollment system is a top priority for VA. This is an important step forward to regain Veterans’ trust and improve access to care as we continue the MyVA Transformation,” said VA Deputy Secretary Sloan D. Gibson.
- “We’ve got a lot of work left to do, but this is a big step in the right direction to restore the data integrity of our enrollment system,” Gibson said.
- LINK> <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2757>

➤ **VA Improves Timeliness of Provider Payments**

- To enhance Veterans’ access to care and eliminate delays in Choice provider payment, the VA is eliminating administrative burdens placed on VA community providers. Previously, payments to Choice providers were not allowed until a copy of the Veteran’s medical record was submitted. Now, community providers, under the Choice program, will no longer be required to submit medical records prior to payment being made. To facilitate the change, VA has modified the Choice Program contract, making it easier for Health Net and TriWest to promptly pay providers.
- LINK> <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2755>

➤ VA Announces Additional Changes to Improve Veterans Crisis Line

- Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson today announced improvements to enhance and accelerate progress at the Veterans Crisis Line, which serves as a life-saving resource for Veterans who find themselves at risk of suicide.
- LINK> <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2752>

➤ VA Takes Action on Allegations of Wrongdoing in Cincinnati

- Based on preliminary results of a joint VA Office of Medical Inspector (OMI) and Office of Accountability (OAR) review conducted February 9-11, 2016 at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Sloan D. Gibson, has proposed the removal of Jack Hetrick, the Veterans Integrated Service Network director, from Federal Service. Today, Mr. Hetrick submitted his retirement.
- Additionally, VA's Undersecretary for Health, Dr. Shulkin, has detailed the Cincinnati VA Medical Center Acting Chief of Staff, Dr. Barbara Temeck, out of her current duties pending appropriate administrative action.
- Link> <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2750>

➤ Compensation

- **Do you have disabilities that are the result of a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service?** You may be eligible for monthly benefits no matter when or where you served.
- **To receive compensation, you must have all of the following:**
 - A current physical or mental disability.
 - An injury or disease in service that caused a disability or aggravated a disability that existed prior to service.
 - A link between your current disability and the injury or disease in military service.

