

**Distribution:** Public Hospitals

**Subject:** Public Hospital Fees for Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Patients

**Purpose:** To correct the Same Day daily rate applicable for 1 July 1994 to 31 December 1994 and clarify the process for claiming payment from DVA for treatment of eligible veterans prior to 1 January 1995. To confirm the casemix rate under the Repatriation Private Patients Scheme.

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**Daily Rate for the Period from 1 July - 31 December 1994**

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has advised that the new per diem rate for Same Day patients was incorrectly notified in Circular 40/1994 of 9/12/94.

The new rates which apply for the period 1 July 1994 to 31 December 1994 are as follows:

| <b>Patient Category</b> | <b>Daily Rate</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Acute/Nursing Home Type | \$194             |
| Same Day                | \$162             |

Retrospective adjustments to hospital payments are currently being processed by the Department of Veterans' Affairs to take into account the new bedday rates which took effect from 1 July 1994.

**Arrangements for Transition to the Repatriation Private Patients Scheme**

The following clarification is provided of information contained in Circular 42/1994 of 22/12/94 in relation to "Claims Prior to 1 January 1995".

In line with the previous arrangements, the claim to Department of Veterans' Affairs for beddays prior to 1 January 1995 will be made through Health Computing Services on the basis of information provided by hospitals through the PRS2 and PRS systems.

Where patients have not been discharged at 31 December 1994, Health Computing Services will program a statistical separation on the basis of patient details transmitted to PRS2 and PRS following admission. Department of Veterans' Affairs will then make final payments under the previous arrangement direct to hospitals.

### **Fees under the Repatriation Private Patients Scheme**

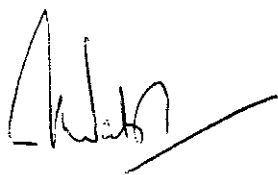
Under the new arrangements for payment for eligible veterans described in Circular 42/1994, H&CS will pay hospitals at the full variable rate for all veterans discharged after 31 December 1994, and at the standard rates applicable for Nursing Home Type and Designated Rehabilitation beddays.

Fees for medical and diagnostic services, and for prostheses provided to eligible veteran inpatients are to be claimed from DVA according to the advice in H&CS Circular 42/1994 of 22 December 1994.

### **Amendment of Fees and Charges Handbook**

Pages are attached which amend the *Fees and Charges for Acute Health Services in Victoria: A Handbook for Public Hospitals*. Could you please update your copy of the *Handbook* by making the following changes.

**Department of Veterans' Affairs Patients** - replace page 10 in part 1, *Fees for Admitted Patients*. The revised per diem fees are effective from 1 July 1994. Claims for surgically implanted prostheses are effective from 1 February 1994. The new arrangements under the Repatriation Private Patient Scheme are effective from 1 January 1995.



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## Department of Veterans' Affairs Patients

### *DVA Funding Arrangements to 31 December 1994:*

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) patient fees are for admitted patients and are not applicable to nursing home or hostel patients.

Payments for admitted patient services provided to eligible veterans will be made directly to the hospital by DVA. These payments will be based on DVA patient information provided by hospitals through the Department of Health & Community Services.

In terms of accounts for which DVA has rejected payment because of inadequate or insufficient information, the hospital must adjust its records to reflect the patient's election contained in the *Form of Election for Admission to a Public Hospital*.

The following bedday rates for acute overnight stay, Nursing Home Type and same day patients apply for the prescribed periods:

| PERIOD                           | RATE PER DAY                           |          |
|----------------------------------|--|----------|
|                                  | Acute Overnight Stay/Nursing Home Type | Same Day |
| 1 September 1993 to 30 June 1994 | \$191                                  | \$160    |
| 1 July 1994 to 31 December 1994  | \$194                                  | \$162    |

Hospitals are to claim direct from DVA for surgically implanted prostheses. Fees are as advised in the relevant H&CS Circulars listing prosthetic appliance fees. This arrangement takes effect retrospective to 1 February 1994.

Please note that all DVA patient bedday information to 31 December 1994 should be transmitted to the PRS2 and PRS systems as soon as possible for referral to DVA for finalisation of DVA direct payment to hospitals for this period.

Where patients were not discharged at 31 December 1994, a statistical separation will be made on the basis of data provided through the PRS2 and PRS systems.

***DVA Funding Arrangements from 1 January 1995:***

From 1 January 1995, Acute Separations will be paid at the full variable rate through H&CS casemix funding arrangements. Nursing home type and designated rehabilitation beddays will be paid on the standard rates applicable.

All medical and diagnostic services and surgically implanted prostheses, should be billed directly to DVA.

*Date of effect: 1 February 1994 for surgically implanted prostheses*

*1 July 1994 for new per diem rates*

*1 January 1995 for arrangements under the Repatriation Private Patients Scheme*

*Reference: Circular Nos.40/94 issued 9/12/94, 42/1994 issued 22/12/94 & 5/1995 issued 2/3/95*