



Geriatrics and Extended Care (GEC) Fee Schedule

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Health Administration (VHA) provides long term services and support to aging and disabled Veterans through a combination of VA and community providers. Most of these community-based services are reimbursed using Medicare rates, while others follow the VA Fee Schedule when no such rates exists. To ensure a more accurate and standardized reimbursement rate methodology that accounts for variations in services and locality costs, VHA's Office of Community Care (OCC) created a Geriatrics and Extended Care (GEC) Fee Schedule, under the VA Fee Schedule. This will improve the fiscal stewardship of the reimbursement process and ensure providers are appropriately compensated.

GEC services include the following types of providers

- Skilled Home Health Care (in limited circumstances)
 - Skilled Nursing
 - Physical Therapy
 - Occupational Therapy
 - Speech Language Therapy
 - Medical Social Services
- Personal Care Services
 - Home Health Aide/Respite
 - Homemaker
 - Adult Day Health Care

Most GEC services reimburse using Medicare rates

- Most skilled home health care has an applicable Medicare rate under the Home Health Prospective Payment System. Also, hospice care has an applicable Medicare rate schedule. Some skilled home health care and other personal care services do not have applicable Medicare rates and follow the VA Fee Schedule.

VA Fee Schedule and GEC Fee Schedule calculations

- A VA Fee Schedule amount is determined by the authorizing VA medical facility which ranks all billings from non-VA facilities under the corresponding

procedure code during the previous fiscal year, with billings ranked from highest to lowest. A VA Fee Schedule amount is the charge falling at the 75th percentile. If the authorizing VA medical facility has not had at least eight such billings, then this does not apply.

- For specific Health Care Procedural Coding System (HCPCS) codes for GEC services, the VA Fee Schedule is calculated using a different methodology that references national Medicare visit rates (Low Utilization Payment Adjustment) and wages as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Current and archived VA Fee Schedules are available online

- The current VA Fee Schedule is posted on VA's Community Care Provider website, <https://www.va.gov/communitycare/revenue-ops/fee-schedule.asp>. Current and past VA Fee Schedules are available to allow community providers tailored information by specific VA medical facility locations and medical codes. The posting of the VA Fee Schedule on VA's public website provides community providers more timely access to information and reduces VA's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) processing workload.

VA Fee Schedule Revisions

- The VA Fee Schedule is recalculated on or immediately after October 1 and includes the claim data from the prior fiscal year. The schedule, including the GEC Fee

Schedule, is in effect for care that takes place from October 1 through September 30 each fiscal year.

- GEC rate changes made during the FY20 calendar year are effective as of 10/1/19. Any claims for GEC services with dates of service between 10/1/19 and the date that the rate changes are published will be reprocessed without requiring claims resubmission.
- VA will publish fee schedule revisions at least quarterly to the VA Fee Schedule webpage with the effective date of these revisions.

VA Fee Schedule under the Community Care Network and Veterans Care Agreements

- The VA Fee Schedule is the same for services provided through both the Community Care Network and Veterans Care Agreements.

For more information, please contact VA's Community Care Contact Center at 877-881-7618, or a regional Payment Operations and Management customer support representative. Phone numbers can be found here:

<https://www.va.gov/communitycare/providers/reference.asp#contacts>