

care system. When a veteran first enrolls in the VA system, and requests an appointment for care, VA schedules an appointment for a visit with a primary care physician. The primary care physician generally learns from the veteran what medication the veteran is taking, if any, assesses the need for the medication and writes prescriptions for any needed medication. Those prescriptions written by the VA physician are filled by a VA pharmacy. In recent years, there has been an increase in the enrollment of veterans into the health care system to obtain pharmacy benefits at no cost or at a reasonable cost. With the dramatically increased enrollment, VA has been unable to provide all enrolled veterans with health care services in a timely manner. Many of those veterans have prescriptions, written by non-VA physicians, that VA primary care

physicians may subsequently confirm and renew when the veterans are able to have initial primary care visits. In an effort to ease financial burden on enrolled veterans currently waiting lengthy periods of time for their initial primary care visits, VA will provide these veterans with medication prior to their initial primary care visits at VA if these veterans present valid prescriptions from the non-VA physicians. VA will fill prescriptions written by non-VA physicians only for a period of time such veterans are awaiting a scheduled appointment with a VA health care provider. VA Form 10-0411, VA Transitional Pharmacy Benefit will be used to collect the data necessary to safely administer these medications.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB

control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on October 7, 2003, at pages 57955-57956.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 30,287 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 10 minutes.

Frequency of Response: One time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 363,446.

Estimated Number of Responses: 181,723.

Dated: December 11, 2003.

By direction of the Secretary.

Jacqueline Parks,

IT Specialist, Records Management Service.

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