



VA BUTLER HEALTHCARE  
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## News Release

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### For Immediate Release

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## PRESCRIPTION COPAY INCREASES FOR SOME VETERANS

**(BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA)** – Some veterans will see an increase in their prescription copayments from \$8 for each 30-day supply to \$9. This change will take effect July 1, 2010.

“Because of the harsh economic reality facing many Veterans, we delayed the change,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki, who postponed the increase originally scheduled for January 1, 2010. “Even with this increase, VA medication copays are lower than much of the private sector.”

Not all Veterans will see the copay increase: only Veterans in Priority Group 7 and 8. Veterans in Priority Groups 2 through 6 will see no increase in their non-service connected prescription copayments. All Veterans will continue to have their out-of-pocket expenses for VA outpatient medications capped at \$960 per calendar year.

“Many Veterans won’t see any difference in their copays,” said VA Butler Healthcare’s Revenue Coordinator Michele Miller. “Veterans in Priority Group 7 and 8 should notify the preregistration department if or when they have a drastic change in income. There is a possibility the change would put them into a different priority group and exempt them from the new \$9 copay charge.”

Veterans who have an injury or illness connected with their military service resulting in a disability rated 50 percent or greater – who are known as Priority Group 1 Veterans -- are exempt from the copay. Veterans may view the updated [Copay Rates Fact Sheet](#) on the VA Butler Healthcare website: <http://www.butler.va.gov>.

*VA Butler Healthcare, located on a scenic wooded 88-acre campus in the heart of Butler County, Pennsylvania, is the provider of choice for over 17,000 Veterans throughout Western Pennsylvania and parts of Ohio. VA Butler, a member of VA Healthcare-VISN 4, provides primary care, specialty care, mental health and social support services to Veterans at its main campus and serves a rural Veteran population through community based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) in Armstrong County, southern Butler County (Cranberry Township), Clarion County, Lawrence County, and Mercer County. VA Butler Healthcare has over 600 employees and volunteers dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of America’s heroes, now and in the future. For more information about VA Butler Healthcare, and links to special programs and initiatives, interested persons can log onto <http://www.butler.va.gov>. Media queries and requests should be directed to David Virag at (724)-285-2576 or [David.Virag@va.gov](mailto:David.Virag@va.gov). # # #*