

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0260]

Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), this notice announces that the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden and includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATE: Comments must be submitted on or before February 10, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY OF THE SUBMISSION CONTACT: Denise McLamb, Records Management Service (005E3), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 565-8374, FAX (202) 565-6950 or e-mail to: denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0260."

Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection to VA's OMB Desk Officer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503, (202) 395-7316. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0260" in any correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title:

a. Request for and Authorization to Release Medical Records or Health Information, VA Form 10-5345.

b. Individual's Request for a Copy of Their Own Health Information, VA Form 10-5345a.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0260.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract:

a. VA Form 10-5345 is used to obtain a written consent from patients before information concerning his or her treatment for alcoholism or alcohol abuse, drug abuse, sickle cell anemia, or infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) can be disclosed to private insurance companies, physicians and other third parties.

b. Patients complete VA Form 10-5345 to request a copy of their medical records from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 August 25, 2005 at page 49975.

Affected Public: Business or other for profit, Individuals or households, not for profit institutions.

Estimated Total Annual Burden:

a. VA Form 10-5345—16,667 hours.

b. VA Form 10-5345a—16,667 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:

a. VA Form 10-5345—2 minutes.

b. VA Form 10-5345a—2 minutes.

Frequency of Response: One time.

Estimated Number of Respondents:

a. VA Form 10-5345—500,000.

b. VA Form 10-5345a—500,000.

Dated: December 22, 2005.

By direction of the Secretary.

Denise McLamb,

Program Analyst, Records Management Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0353]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments for information needed to determine the number of correspondence courses completed by a student and serviced by the correspondence school.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before March 13, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M35), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail: irmnkess@vba.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0353" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-5947.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title: Certification of Lessons Completed, (Chapters 30, 32, and 35, Title 38, U.S.C.; Chapter 31, 110, 1606 and 1607, Title 10, U.S.C.; and section 903, Pub. L. 96-342), VA Forms 22-6553b and 22-6553b-1.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0353.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Students enrolled in a correspondence school complete VA Forms 22-6553b and 22-6553b-1 to report the number of correspondence course lessons completed and forward the forms to the correspondence school for certification. School official certifies the number of lessons serviced and submits the forms to VA for processing. Benefits are payable based on the data provided on the form. Benefits are not payable when students interrupt, discontinue, or complete the training. VA uses the data collected to determine the amount of benefit is payable.