

(2) For purposes of this subsection, the members of the immediate family of a member of the Armed Forces described in paragraph (1) include the parents of such member.

(c) **PROVISION OF COUNSELING THROUGH VET CENTERS.**—Bereavement counseling may be provided under this section through the facilities and personnel of centers for the provision of re-adjustment counseling and related mental health services under section 1712A of this title.

(d) **BEREAVEMENT COUNSELING DEFINED.**—For purposes of this section, the term “bereavement counseling” means such counseling services, for a limited period, as the Secretary determines to be reasonable and necessary to assist an individual with the emotional and psychological stress accompanying the death of another individual.

(Added Pub. L. 107–135, title II, §208(b), Jan. 23, 2002, 115 Stat. 2463; amended Pub. L. 109–461, title II, §216, Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3424.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1783 was renumbered section 3683 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 109–461, §216(a), designated existing provisions as par. (1) and added par. (2).

Subsec. (c), (d). Pub. L. 109–461, §216(b), added subsec. (c) and redesignated former subsec. (c) as (d).

§ 1784. Humanitarian care

The Secretary may furnish hospital care or medical services as a humanitarian service in emergency cases, but the Secretary shall charge for such care and services at rates prescribed by the Secretary.

(Added Pub. L. 107–135, title II, §208(b), Jan. 23, 2002, 115 Stat. 2463.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior section 1784 was renumbered section 3684 of this title.

§ 1785. Care and services during certain disasters and emergencies

(a) **AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES.**—During and immediately following a disaster or emergency referred to in subsection (b), the Secretary may furnish hospital care and medical services to individuals responding to, involved in, or otherwise affected by that disaster or emergency.

(b) **COVERED DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES.**—A disaster or emergency referred to in this subsection is any disaster or emergency as follows:

(1) A major disaster or emergency declared by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

(2) A disaster or emergency in which the National Disaster Medical System established pursuant to section 2812 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh)¹ is activated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under that section or as otherwise authorized by law.

(c) **APPLICABILITY TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE VETERANS.**—The Secretary may fur-

nish care and services under this section to an individual described in subsection (a) who is a veteran without regard to whether that individual is enrolled in the system of patient enrollment under section 1705 of this title.

(d) **REIMBURSEMENT FROM OTHER FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.**—(1) The cost of any care or services furnished under this section to an officer or employee of a department or agency of the United States other than the Department or to a member of the Armed Forces shall be reimbursed at such rates as may be agreed upon by the Secretary and the head of such department or agency or the Secretary concerned, in the case of a member of the Armed Forces, based on the cost of the care or service furnished.

(2) Amounts received by the Department under this subsection shall be credited to the Medical Care Collections Fund under section 1729A of this title.

(e) **REPORT TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—Within 60 days of the commencement of a disaster or emergency referred to in subsection (b) in which the Secretary furnishes care and services under this section (or as soon thereafter as is practicable), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the Secretary's allocation of facilities and personnel in order to furnish such care and services.

(f) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary shall prescribe regulations governing the exercise of the authority of the Secretary under this section.

(Added Pub. L. 107–287, §4(a)(1), Nov. 7, 2002, 116 Stat. 2028; amended Pub. L. 109–444, §8(a)(2), Dec. 21, 2006, 120 Stat. 3313; Pub. L. 109–461, title X, §§1004(a)(2), 1006(b), Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3465, 3468; Pub. L. 111–275, title X, §1001(c)(2), Oct. 13, 2010, 124 Stat. 2896.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(1), is Pub. L. 93–288, May 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 143, which is classified principally to chapter 68 (§5121 et seq.) of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 5121 of Title 42 and Tables.

Section 2812 of the Public Health Service Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(2), is classified to section 300hh–11 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1785 was renumbered section 3685 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 111–275 substituted “section 2812 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh)” for “section 2811(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–11(b))” and struck out “paragraph (3)(A) of” before “that section”.

2006—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 109–461, §1006(b), provided that as of the enactment of Pub. L. 109–461, the amendments made by Pub. L. 109–444 were deemed for all purposes not to have taken effect and that Pub. L. 109–444 ceased to be in effect. See Amendment notes below and section 1006(b) of Pub. L. 109–461, set out as a Coordination of Provisions With Pub. L. 109–444 note under section 101 of this title.

Pub. L. 109–461, §1004(a)(2), substituted “Robert T.” for “Robert B.”.

Pub. L. 109–444, which substituted “Robert T.” for “Robert B.”, was terminated by Pub. L. 109–461, §1006(b). See Amendment notes above.

¹ See References in Text note below.