III, \$302(c)(1), Oct. 9, 1992, 106 Stat. 1984; Pub. L. 104-262, title III, \$346, Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3208, related to written agreements for special pay, prior to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 108-445.

# §7433. Administrative matters

(a) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe regulations relating to the pay of physicians, podiatrists, and dentists in the Veterans Health Administration under this subchapter.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS AND VIEWS.—In prescribing the regulations, the Secretary shall take into account the recommendations of the Under Secretary for Health on the administration of this subchapter. In formulating recommendations for the purpose of this subsection, the Under Secretary shall request the views of representatives of labor organizations that are exclusive representatives of physicians, podiatrists, and dentists of the Department and the views of representatives of professional organizations of physicians, podiatrists, and dentists of the Department.

(Added Pub. L. 108-445, §3(b), Dec. 3, 2004, 118 Stat. 2640; amended Pub. L. 116-12, §1(b)(2), (5), Apr. 8, 2019, 133 Stat. 845.)

#### **Editorial Notes**

### PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior sections 7433 to 7440 were omitted in the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 108-445.

Section 7433, added Pub. L. 102-40, title I, §102, May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 191; amended Pub. L. 102-405, title III, §302(c)(1), Oct. 9, 1992, 106 Stat. 1984; Pub. L. 103-446, title XII, §1201(e)(22), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4686, related to special pay for full-time physicians.

Section 7434, added Pub. L. 102-40, title I, §102, May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 192, related to special pay of part-time physicians.

Section 7435, added Pub. L. 102-40, title I, §102, May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 193; amended Pub. L. 102-405, title III, §302(c)(1), Oct. 9, 1992, 106 Stat. 1984; Pub. L. 103-446, title XII, §1201(e)(22), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4686; Pub. L. 106-419, title II, §202(a)-(f), Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1840, 1841, related to special pay of full-time dentists.

Section 7436, added Pub. L. 102-40, title I, §102, May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 194, related to special pay of part-time dentists.

Section 7437, added Pub. L. 102-40, title I, §102, May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 194; amended Pub. L. 102-405, title II, §204(a), title III, §302(c)(1), Oct. 9, 1992, 106 Stat. 1983, 1984, related to general provisions concerning special pay of physicians and dentists.

Section 7438, added Pub. L. 102-40, title I, §102, May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 196; amended Pub. L. 106-419, title II, §202(g), Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1841, related to coordination of special pay with other benefits laws.

Section 7439, added Pub. L. 102-40, title I, §102, May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 197, related to periodic review and quadrennial reports regarding pay of physicians and dentists.

Section 7440, added Pub. L. 102-40, title I, 102, May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 198; amended Pub. L. 103-446, title XII, 1201(c)(6), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4684, related to annual reports of the use of authorities provided in this subchapter.

#### Amendments

2019—Pub. L. 116–12, 1(b)(2), substituted "physicians, podiatrists, and dentists" for "physicians and dentists" wherever appearing.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 116–12, (b)(5)(B), struck out par. (1) designation before "The Secretary" and redesignated par. (2) as subsec. (b).

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 116-12, \$1(b)(5)(C), inserted heading and substituted "this subsection" for "this paragraph".

Pub. L. 116–12, (1)(5)(A), (B)(ii), redesignated subsec. (a)(2) as (b) and struck out former subsec. (b) which required reports on the pay of physicians and dentists in the Veterans Health Administration under this sub-chapter.

# SUBCHAPTER IV—PAY FOR NURSES AND OTHER HEALTH-CARE PERSONNEL

# §7451. Nurses and other health-care personnel: competitive pay

(a)(1) It is the purpose of this section to ensure, by a means providing increased responsibility and authority to directors of Department health-care facilities, that the rates of basic pay for health-care personnel positions described in paragraph (2) in each Department health-care facility (including the rates of basic pay of personnel employed in such positions on a parttime basis) are sufficient for that facility to be competitive, on the basis of pay and other employee benefits, with non-Department healthcare facilities in the same labor-market area in the recruitment and retention of qualified personnel for those positions.

(2) The health-care personnel positions referred to in paragraph (1) (hereinafter in this section referred to as "covered positions") are the following:

(A) Registered nurse.

(B) Physician assistant.

(C) Such positions referred to in paragraphs (1) and (3) of section 7401 of this title (other than the positions of physician, dentist, registered nurse, physician assistant, and podiatrist) as the Secretary may determine upon the recommendation of the Under Secretary for Health.

(3)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the rates of basic pay for covered positions in the Department shall be established and adjusted in accordance with this section instead of subsection (b)(1) of section 7404 of this title or chapter 53 of title 5.

(B) Under such regulations as the Secretary shall prescribe, the Secretary shall establish and adjust the rates of basic pay for covered positions at the following health-care facilities in order to provide rates of basic pay that enable the Secretary to recruit and retain sufficient numbers of health-care personnel in such positions at those facilities:

(i) The Veterans Memorial Medical Center in the Republic of the Philippines.

(ii) Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare facilities located outside the contiguous States, Alaska, and Hawaii.

(4) The Secretary, after receiving the recommendation of the Under Secretary for Health, shall prescribe regulations setting forth criteria and procedures to carry out this section and section 7452 of this title. Requirements in such regulations for directors to provide and maintain documentation of actions taken under this section shall require no more documentation than the minimum essential for responsible administration.

(b) The Secretary shall maintain the five grade levels for nurses employed by the Depart-