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## VA to Take Immediate Action on Timely Payments



WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced a series of immediate actions to improve the timeliness of payments to community providers. The actions will address the issue of delayed payments head-on and produce sustainable fixes that solve ongoing payment issues that affect Veterans, community providers and other VA partners.

“It is vital to the health of our network of providers that we provide payment in a timely and consistent fashion,” said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. “Our outside providers are an essential part of our network and we need to improve our system of payments for their services.”

**VA will immediately take the following short and long-term actions to improve payments to community providers. Short-term actions include:**

- Create rapid response teams to work on the ground with these providers to reach financial settlement within 90 days.
- Increase the number of claims processed by vendors by 300 percent in January 2018 and by 600 percent in April 2018 with a goal of 90 percent clean claims processed in less than 30 days.
- Establish multiple entry points for providers to check the status of their claim, including a dedicated customer service team and VA’s Vendor Inquiry System (VIS) located at <https://www.vis.fcva.gov>.

**In addition, long-term actions include:**

- Deploy multiple IT improvements within the first six months of 2018 that streamline the claim submission and payment process to reduce time for payments significantly.
- Align on concurrent performance improvement goals with VA’s existing Third Party Administrators to improve multiple aspects of their performance rapidly to ensure Veterans have continued uninterrupted access to care.
- Award four new contracts in 2018 for implementation in 2019 to establish the new Community Care Network that includes elements designed to ensure prompt payment of claims.
- Work with Congress to consolidate and simplify all VA community care programs, including provisions for prompt payment of claims.
- Ensure transparency with VA’s claims processing performance by publishing VA’s claims processing timeliness on a monthly basis.

Here are resources for community care providers:

<https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/providers/resources.asp>

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### Medical Billing Unlimited

**Medical (me-di-k-el):** Practice of medicine through physical examination.

**Billing (bil-ing):** The total amount of business done within a specific period.

**Unlimited (un-lim-ited):** Boundless opportunities.

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