

RECOMMENDATION NO. 49

The Commission recommends that the Veterans Administration provide nonservice-connected outpatient medical benefits for all veterans with service-connected conditions rated 100 percent disabling.

Background to Recommendation:

Veterans on the VA compensation rolls may be treated in VA outpatient clinics and home-town programs for their service-connected disabilities or related medical conditions. They may not receive such treatment for other medical conditions. However, it is the practice in VA hospitals to treat the "whole man" whether he is service-connected or not. The extension of general outpatient treatment to veterans with service-connected conditions rated 100 percent disabling would tend to reduce their inpatient needs, especially since they would not be forced to go to the hospital for medical treatment which could be accomplished on an outpatient basis. An outpatient program for all their medical needs would tend to improve physical well-being, slow down physical deterioration, and alleviate some of the need among this group for hospital and nursing home care.

Therefore, the Commission recommends that the VA provide a comprehensive outpatient medical care program in its clinics and home-town programs for the care of all conditions of those receiving compensation for 100 percent disability. Such a program should provide complete medical care, including pharmaceutical prescriptions, but would provide dental care only to the extent that such care was required as adjunct to a medical condition.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 50

The Commission recommends that legislation be enacted to classify special hand and foot driver control devices required by certain categories of disabled veterans as prosthetic devices, in cases where the veteran does not receive a grant to cover the cost of the vehicle.

Background to Recommendation:

The Veterans Administration has furnished grants to approximately 50,000 disabled veterans for the purchase of automobiles. Nearly 30,000 of these required driver control