

RECOMMENDATION NO. 59

The Commission recommends elimination of the six-month limitation to community nursing home care for veterans whose hospitalization was primarily for a service-connected disability.

Background to Recommendation:

Current law provides that nursing home care may not be furnished by the Veterans Administration for more than six months in conjunction with any episode of hospitalization except where the Administrator determines that a longer period is needed. While it is clear that in most cases, the present law and regulations are adequate, the Commission feels that the limitation should be lifted as it applies to veterans whose prior hospitalization was primarily for treatment of a service-connected condition. Accordingly, the Commission recommends that the six-month initial limitation be eliminated for veterans whose hospitalization was primarily for a service-connected disability.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 60

The Commission recommends that the amount paid to states for nursing home care be increased to one-half of the per diem cost of such care.

Background to Recommendation:

At present, the Veterans Administration pays the states \$3.50 for each day a veteran receives nursing home care in a state home. This is obviously not enough, as the amount it pays private nursing homes will exceed \$12.00 a day in many areas. It is the feeling of the Commission that if the states were given an increase, there would be an incentive for the states to operate more nursing home beds. This would be less expensive than providing care in private nursing homes. The Commission therefore recommends that the Veterans Administration be authorized to pay to the states one-half of the cost of nursing home care furnished each war veteran in a state home under 38 USC 641.