

RAO NEWSLETTER 6-1-23



RAO Closed 28 June, Philippine workers holiday and on 4 July, Tuesday.

Pain management in Olongapo.

As many of you know on Oct 1 2022, the VA in U, S. ceased providing opioids to Veterans in the Philippines. They began a program of weening Vets from those drugs and provided alternatives. For some, that has been somewhat successful, but for others it has not had the desired effects. There are many who live with constant pain which is exacerbated by their PTSD and it becomes a vicious cycle. Until this time the only recourse for those suffering was to first try to find a Dr to write a script and then begin the search to have it filled. The closest dedicated availability for those meds has been Sacred Heart Hospital in Angeles. Over this past week the RAO has been in talks with a local Pain Management Specialist, who has agreed to provide care for our Vets, much as we have done with the FMP program.

This will be closely monitored and you will have to provide documentation to show you have an injury/illness to warrant issuance. There will be one of three documents required to qualify.

1. A VA rating letter showing your injury/illness, or
2. FMP letter, or
3. A copy of your medication list from Myhealth Vet, showing previous issuance.

Once qualified, the specialist will evaluate your history and advise on a treatment plan, and issue a script for advised meds and also advise on where you may be able to obtain the meds.

Once the script is delivered, you should research the med to find if it is a US FDA approved formulary. If you find that it is, then you can submit a claim for reimbursement for the med through FMP. If you should find it is not, then you would not be reimbursed by FMP and it would become an out of pocket expense. If you are rated for the injury/illness, you can file a claim for reimbursement for the evaluation and any further treatments. You may also be able to file a claim through TRICARE if you are not service connected for the injury/illness, but will have to provide documentation that you have previously been issued the med.

Should you not be knowledgeable in filing claims through FMP or TRICARE, you may bring all the records for the treatment and receipts, to the RAO for assistance.

As a way to measure the effectiveness of this program, information on how to contact the Dr. for an appt, can be obtained by calling 0476030674, between the hours of 9AM and 3 PM. M-F. Calls outside those hours will not be acknowledged. Your confidentiality will be maintained, and you will be advised of the DR's contact info.

OUTREACH/RECRUITING

We have been receiving calls and messages inquiring about an Outreach and Recruiting visits. At this time **no information** has been received from any of the Embassy entities or Recruiters, regarding a scheduling.

Please be safe, and have a great day, for you cantankerous old salts, have a day.

