



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Sept. 30, 2013

**VA Loma Linda to Educate Veterans on Health Reform**

LOMA LINDA, Calif. – The VA Loma Linda Healthcare System will host open forums on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and its effects on Veterans during October 2013. The informational sessions will take place on consecutive Fridays – Oct. 11, 18 and 25 at 2 p.m. – in the auditorium at the Jerry L. Memorial VA Medical Center in Loma Linda, Calif. Each presentation will be the same, so interested Veterans need only attend one session.

Without additional Congressional or White House action, most provisions of the healthcare reform law, more commonly called the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and frequently referred to as “Obamacare,” will take effect on Jan. 1, 2014.

VA wants all Veterans to receive health care that improves their health and well-being and understand their VA health care and other health coverage options.

If enrolled in VA health care, a Veteran does not need to take additional steps to meet the health care law coverage standards. The health care law does not change VA health benefits or Veterans’ out-of-pocket costs.

Veterans and other beneficiaries not currently enrolled in VA health care can apply for enrollment at any time. Applications are accepted online at [www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll), by phone at 877-222-VETS, by mail, or in person at a VA medical facility.

VA will continue to provide Veterans with high quality, comprehensive health care and benefits they are earned through their service. Veterans’ family members and Veterans not eligible for VA care may secure coverage through the Marketplace.

The Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center is the centerpiece of the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System. Opened in 1977, it is located ½ mile from its major affiliate, Loma Linda University. The VA Loma Linda Healthcare System is one of the top 25 employers in the Inland Empire. With approximately 2,500 employees and more than 1,000 volunteers, it serves more than 67,000 Veterans who entrust their health care needs to VA for a wide variety of services through inpatient and outpatient care. In partnership with Loma Linda University Medical Center and Loma Linda University Healthcare, VA provides primary care and mental health at outpatient clinics located in Blythe, Corona, Palm Desert, Murrieta, Rancho Cucamonga and Victorville.