



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**VA Loma Linda Encourages Uninsured Veterans
to Enroll Before the New Year**

LOMA LINDA, Calif. – The VA Loma Linda Healthcare System is encouraging all Veterans in Riverside, San Bernardino and Inyo counties to make an informed decision about their health care options before the New Year, and to consider the advantages of health care offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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, although open enrollment in ACA health care exchanges continues until March 31.

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. VA will continue to provide eligible Veterans with high quality, comprehensive health care and benefits they are earned through their service.

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, by phone at 877-222-VETS, by mail, or in person at a VA medical facility.

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Enrollment in VA health care means eligible Veterans enjoy:

- Medical care rated among the best in the U.S.
- Immediate benefits of health care coverage.
- No enrollment fee, monthly premiums, or deductibles. Most Veterans have no out-of-pocket costs. Some Veterans may have to pay small copayments for health care or prescription drugs. The 2012 average annual out-of-pocket costs for all other Veterans was just \$322.00.
- More than 1,700 places available to get your care. This means your coverage can go with you if you travel or move.
- Health care coverage that meets the minimum standard and avoids penalties for failing to obtain coverage.

Veterans' family members and Veterans not eligible for VA care may secure coverage through the Marketplace.

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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.