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Notices

Federal Register

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Requirements for Patent Applications Containing Nucleotide Sequence and/or Amino Acid Sequence Disclosures

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. The USPTO invites comments on this information collection renewal of 0651–0024 (Requirements for Patent Applications Containing Nucleotide Sequence and/or Amino Acid Sequence Disclosures), which helps the USPTO assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on June 26, 2025, during a 60-day comment period (90 FR 27284). This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comment. **DATES:** To ensure consideration, you must submit comments regarding this information collection on or before November 24, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for this information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice at the following website, www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under

30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function and entering either the title of the information collection or the OMB Control Number, 0651–0024. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

- This information collection request may be viewed at www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce, USPTO information collections currently under review by OMB.

- *Email:* InformationCollection@uspto.gov. Include “0651–0024 information request” in the subject line of the message.

- *Mail:* Justin Isaac, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450.

- *Telephone:* Raul Tamayo, Senior Legal Advisor, (571)–272–7728.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agency: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

Title: Requirements for Patent Applications Containing Nucleotide Sequence and/or Amino Acid Sequence Disclosures.

OMB Control Number: 0651–0024.

Needs and Uses: Patent applications that contain nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosures falling within the definitions of 37 CFR 1.831 (for applications filed on or after July 1, 2022) or 37 CFR 1.821(a) (for applications filed on or before June 30, 2022) must include, as a separate part of the application disclosure, a copy of the sequence listing in accordance with the requirements in 37 CFR 1.831–1.835 or 37 CFR 1.821–1.825, respectively. Applicants may submit sequence listings for both U.S. and international patent applications. For more information concerning the submission of sequence listings in international applications, see the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Rules 5.2 and 13ter, Annex C of the PCT Administrative Instructions, and section 1848 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) (9th ed., Rev. 01.2024, November 2024).

The USPTO uses the sequence listings during the examination process to

determine the patentability of the invention claimed in the application. The USPTO also uses the sequence listings for pre-grant publication of applications and issued patents. Applicants use sequence listings when preparing both national and international patent applications that disclose nucleotide and/or amino acid sequences to provide a written description of the invention and to distinguish the claimed subject matter from the prior art.

This information covers only the submission of sequence listing information itself. Information pertaining to the initial filing of a U.S. patent application is collected under OMB Control Number 0651–0032, and information pertaining to the initial filing of international applications is collected under OMB Control Number 0651–0021.

For sequence listings filed as 37 CFR 1.825 amendments in applications having a filing date of on or before June 30, 2022, this information collection also accounts for the submission of a new or substitute computer readable form (CRF) copy of the sequence listing under 37 CFR 1.821(e) and 1.824, with the amendment incorporated therein, if necessary, under 37 CFR 1.825(a)(5)(ii) or (b)(6)(ii).

Forms: None.

Type of Review: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Affected Public: Public sector.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain benefits.

Frequency: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 30,000 respondents.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 30,000 responses.

Estimated Time per Response: The USPTO estimates that the responses in this information collection will take the public approximately 6 hours to complete. This includes the time to gather the necessary information, create the document, and submit the completed item(s) to the USPTO.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours: 180,000 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Non-hourly Cost Burden: \$336,973.

Justin Isaac,

Information Collections Officer, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2025–19650 Filed 10–23–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–16–P

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. K2025–203; MC2026–43 and K2026–43; MC2026–44 and K2026–44; MC2026–45 and K2026–45]

New Postal Products

AGENCY: Postal Regulatory Commission.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission is noticing a recent Postal Service filing for the Commission's consideration concerning a negotiated service agreement. This notice informs the public of the filing, invites public comment, and takes other administrative steps.

DATES: *Comments are due:* October 29, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments electronically via the Commission's Filing Online system at <https://www.prc.gov>. Those who cannot submit comments electronically should contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section by telephone for advice on filing alternatives.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David A. Trissell, General Counsel, at 202–789–6820.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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- I. Introduction
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I. Introduction

Pursuant to 39 CFR 3041.405, the Commission gives notice that the Postal Service filed request(s) for the Commission to consider matters related to Competitive negotiated service agreement(s). The request(s) may propose the addition of a negotiated service agreement from the Competitive product list or the modification of an existing product currently appearing on the Competitive product list.

The public portions of the Postal Service's request(s) can be accessed via the Commission's website (<http://www.prc.gov>). Non-public portions of the Postal Service's request(s), if any, can be accessed through compliance

with the requirements of 39 CFR 3011.301.¹

Section II identifies the docket number(s) associated with each Postal Service request, if any, that will be reviewed in a public proceeding as defined by 39 CFR 3010.101(p), the title of each such request, the request's acceptance date, and the authority cited by the Postal Service for each request. For each such request, the Commission appoints an officer of the Commission to represent the interests of the general public in the proceeding, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505 and 39 CFR 3000.114 (Public Representative). The Public Representative does not represent any individual person, entity or particular point of view, and, when Commission attorneys are appointed, no attorney-client relationship is established. Section II also establishes comment deadline(s) pertaining to each such request.

The Commission invites comments on whether the Postal Service's request(s) identified in Section II, if any, are consistent with the policies of title 39. Applicable statutory and regulatory requirements include 39 U.S.C. 3632, 39 U.S.C. 3633, 39 U.S.C. 3642, 39 CFR part 3035, and 39 CFR part 3041. Comment deadline(s) for each such request, if any, appear in Section II.

Section III identifies the docket number(s) associated with each Postal Service request, if any, to add a standardized distinct product to the Competitive product list or to amend a standardized distinct product, the title of each such request, the request's acceptance date, and the authority cited by the Postal Service for each request. Standardized distinct products are negotiated service agreements that are variations of one or more Competitive products, and for which financial models, minimum rates, and classification criteria have undergone advance Commission review. *See* 39 CFR 3041.110(n); 39 CFR 3041.205(a). Such requests are reviewed in summary proceedings pursuant to 39 CFR 3041.325(c)(2) and 39 CFR 3041.505(f)(1). Pursuant to 39 CFR 3041.405(c)–(d), the Commission does not appoint a Public Representative or request public comment in proceedings to review such requests. The comment due date discussed above does not apply to Section III proceedings (Docket Nos. MC2026–44 and K2026–44; MC2026–45 and K2026–45).

¹ *See* Docket No. RM2018–3, Order Adopting Final Rules Relating to Non-Public Information, June 27, 2018, Attachment A at 19–22 (Order No. 4679).

II. Public Proceeding(s)

1. *Docket No(s):* K2025–203; *Filing Title:* USPS Request Concerning Amendment One to Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & USPS Ground Advantage Contract 574, with Materials Filed Under Seal; *Filing Acceptance Date:* October 21, 2025; *Filing Authority:* 39 CFR 3035.105 and 39 CFR 3041.505; *Public Representative:* Christopher Mohr; *Comments Due:* October 29, 2025.

2. *Docket No(s):* MC2026–43 and K2026–43; *Filing Title:* USPS Request to Add Priority Mail Contract 939 to the Competitive Product List and Notice of Filing Materials Under Seal; *Filing Acceptance Date:* October 21, 2025; *Filing Authority:* 39 U.S.C. 3642, 39 CFR 3035.105, and 39 CFR 3041.310; *Public Representative:* Kenneth Moeller; *Comments Due:* October 29, 2025.

III. Summary Proceeding(s)

1. *Docket No(s):* MC2026–44 and K2026–44; *Filing Title:* USPS Request to Add New Fulfillment Standardized Distinct Product, PM–GA Contract 887, and Notice of Filing Materials Under Seal; *Filing Acceptance Date:* October 21, 2025; *Filing Authority:* 39 U.S.C. 3642 and 3633, 39 CFR 3035.105, and 39 CFR 3041.325.

2. *Docket No(s):* MC2026–45 and K2026–45; *Filing Title:* USPS Request to Add New Fulfillment Standardized Distinct Product, PM–GA Contract 888, and Notice of Filing Materials Under Seal; *Filing Acceptance Date:* October 21, 2025; *Filing Authority:* 39 U.S.C. 3642 and 3633, 39 CFR 3035.105, and 39 CFR 3041.325.

This Notice will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Erica A. Barker,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2025–19653 Filed 10–23–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710–FW–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[Docket No. VA–2025–VACO–0002]

Corporate Senior Executive Management Office Notice of Performance Review Board Members

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs, Corporate Senior Executive Management Office.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Agencies are required to publish a notice in the **Federal Register** of the appointment of Performance Review Board (PRB) members. This notice announces the appointment of

individuals to serve on the PRB of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

DATES: This appointment is effective October 24, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shana Love Holmon, Executive Director, Corporate Senior Executive Management Office, Office of Human Resources and Administration, 202–632–5285.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The membership of the Department of Veterans Affairs Performance Review Board is as follows:

Lawrence, Paul R.—Chair
Engelbaum, Mark R.—Vice Chair
Bergin, Donald J.
Bocchicchio, Alfred
Boyd, Teresa D.
Brown, Samuel B.
Burch, Jennifer A.
Cashour, Curtis E.
Catano, Maura
Cellura, Christina H.
De Leon, Joshua
Devlin, Margarita
Dietrich, Jill K.
Dinesen, Ian M.
Dossie, Susie L.
Ducker, Daniel L.
Flynn, Julianne
Hausman, Mark S.
Hawthorne, Cory
Hilllian-Craig, Jacqueline A.
Jones, Wendell E.
Lauder, Jon M.
Lee, Aaron M.
Lieberman, Steven
Lilly, Ryan S.
Llorente, Maria D.
Manuel, Howard L.
McIlroy, Andrew R.
Navaratnasingam, Pritz
Newman, Michael T.
Powers, Glenn
Pozzebon, Lisa
Quill, Joshua J.
Radway, Ted L.
Roy, Faith D.
Runyan, Danielle A.
Smith, Tres C.
Stapleton, John O.
Stoddard, Michael T.
Terrell, Brandye
Toles, Krystal M.
Topping, Richard F.
Waddington, George

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 4314(c)(4).

Signing Authority

Douglas A. Collins, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, approved this document on October 20, 2025, and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication

electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Taylor N. Mattson,
Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer,
Department of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2025–19649 Filed 10–23–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[Docket No. VA–2025–VACO–0002]

Annual Pay Ranges for Physicians, Dentists, Podiatrists, and Optometrists of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is hereby giving notice of an update to annual pay ranges, which is the sum of the base pay rate and market pay for VHA physicians, dentists, podiatrists, and optometrists as prescribed by the Secretary for Department-wide applicability. Optometrists are now included in the annual pay ranges pursuant to the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act. The pay table placement of optometrists is intended to enhance the flexibility of the Department to recruit, develop, and retain the most highly qualified optometrists to serve our Nation's veterans and maintain a standard of excellence in the VA health care system.

DATES: Annual pay ranges are applicable beginning on December 28, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Tolley, Human Resources Specialist (Compensation), Human Resources Center of Expertise, Workforce Management and Consulting Office, Veterans Health Administration, (843) 864–3630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

As required by the “Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Personnel Enhancement Act of 2004,” (Pub. L. 108–445 dated December 3, 2004) VA is hereby giving notice of annual pay ranges for VHA physicians, dentists, podiatrists, and optometrists as prescribed by the Secretary for Department-wide applicability. The major provisions of the law established a new pay system for VHA physicians and dentists consisting of base pay, market pay, and performance pay. While the base pay component is set by statute, market pay is intended to reflect

the recruitment and retention needs for the specialty or assignment of a particular physician or dentist at a facility. Further, performance pay is intended to recognize the achievement of specific goals and performance objectives prescribed annually. These three components create a system of pay that is driven by both market indicators and employee performance, while recognizing employee tenure in VHA.

On April 8, 2019, the President signed Public Law 116–12, which amended 38 U.S.C. 7431 to include podiatrists within the physician and dentist pay system, authorizing podiatrists to receive base pay, market pay, and performance pay. With the amendment, podiatrists are also subject to the same limitations and requirements as physicians and dentists under section 7431.

On January 2, 2025, the President signed Public Law 118–210 which further amended 38 U.S.C. 7431 to include optometrists with the physician, dentist, and podiatrist pay system, authorizing optometrists to receive base pay, market pay, and performance pay. With this amendment, optometrists are also subject to the same limitations and requirements as physicians, dentists, and podiatrists under section 7431.

Under 38 U.S.C. 7431(e)(1)(A), not less often than once every 2 years, the Secretary must prescribe for Department-wide applicability the minimum and maximum amounts of annual pay that may be paid to VHA physicians, podiatrists, optometrists, and dentists. Further, 38 U.S.C. 7431(e)(1)(B) allows the Secretary to prescribe separate minimum and maximum amounts of annual pay for a specialty or assignment. Pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 7431(e)(1)(C), amounts prescribed under paragraph 7431(e) shall be published in the **Federal Register** and shall not take effect until at least 60 days after date of publication.

In addition, under 38 U.S.C. 7431(e)(4), the total amount of compensation paid to a physician, podiatrist, optometrist, or dentist cannot exceed, in any year, the amount of annual compensation (excluding expenses) of the President. For the purposes of section 7431(e)(4), “the total amount of compensation” includes base pay, market pay, performance pay, and fee basis earnings, but excludes recruitment, relocation, and retention incentives¹ and incentive awards for

¹ In accordance with Title IX, Section 906 of the “Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022” (Pub. L. 117–168 dated August 10, 2022), recruitment, relocation, and retention

performance and special contributions from total compensation calculations.

Discussion

VA identified and utilized salary survey data sources which most closely represent VA comparability in the areas of practice setting, employment environment, and hospital/health care system. The Gallagher Advanced Practice Provider Survey, Mercer Integrated Health Network (INH) Physician Practices/Outpatient Facilities Survey, and Payfactors Market Data Healthcare Providers and Services Survey report were collectively utilized as benchmarks from which to prescribe annual pay ranges for optometrists across the scope of assignments/specialties within the Department. While aggregating the data, a preponderance of weight was given to those surveys which most directly resembled the environment of the Department.

In developing pay table placement and annual salary rates of optometrists, a few distinctive principles were factored into the compensation analysis of the data. The first principle is to ensure that both the minimum and maximum salary is at a level that accommodates special employment situations, from fellowships and medical research career development awards to Nobel Laureates, and high-cost areas for optometrists. The second principle is to provide ranges large enough to accommodate career progression, geographic differences, sub-specialization, and other special factors for optometrists.

Several VA data sources were reviewed against available, relevant private sector data. Optometry is placed into one clinical pay range that reflects comparable complexity in salary, recruitment, and retention considerations.

Updates to Pay Table 1

On July 25, 2025, VA published notice in the **Federal Register** of the annual pay ranges for VHA physicians, dentists, and podiatrists. 90 FR 35379.

incentives, along with performance awards, shall not be considered in calculating the limitation under 38 U.S.C. 7431(e)(4).

At the time the Steering Committee met in 2024, optometrists were not included in the covered clinical specialties for Pay Table 1. After the passage of Public Law 118–210 in 2025, a separate Steering Committee met to determine the annual pay ranges for optometrists. The list of covered clinical specialties for Pay Table 1, listed below, now includes optometrists. Additionally, the minimum pay range for Pay Table 1, Tier 1, has been increased from \$121,000 to \$123,077 for all covered clinical specialties consistent with the January 12, 2025, General Adjustment.

PAY TABLE 1—CLINICAL SPECIALTY

Tier level	Minimum	Maximum
Tier 1	\$123,077	\$315,000
Tier 2	145,000	335,000
Tier 3	165,000	350,000

Pay Table 1—Covered Clinical Specialties

- Allergy and Immunology
- Endocrinology
- Endodontics
- Family Medicine
- General Practice—Dentistry
- Geneticist
- Geriatrics
- Hospital Epidemiology
- Hospitalist
- Infectious Diseases
- Internal Medicine
- Neurology
- Optometry
- Palliative Care
- Periodontics
- Physician Medicine and Rehabilitation/
Spinal Cord Injury
- Podiatry (General)
- Preventive Medicine
- Primary Care
- Prosthodontics
- Psychiatry
- Rheumatology
- Urgent Care
- All other specialties or assignments

Updates to Pay Table 2

Consistent with the January 12, 2025, General Adjustment mentioned above, the minimum pay range for Pay Table 2, Tier 1, has also been increased from \$115,587 to \$123,077. While no changes

were made to the covered clinical specialties, the updated Pay Table 2 is provided below.

PAY TABLE 2—CLINICAL SPECIALTY

Tier level	Minimum	Maximum
Tier 1	\$123,077	\$400,000
Tier 2	200,000	400,000
Tier 3	225,000	400,000

Pay Table 2—Covered Clinical Specialties

- Anesthesiology
- Cardiology
- Critical Care
- Dermatology and MOHS Dermatology
- Emergency Medicine
- Gastroenterology
- Gynecology
- Health Informatics
- Hematology—Oncology
- Nephrology
- Neurosurgery
- Nuclear Medicine
- Ophthalmology
- Oral Surgery
- Otolaryngology
- Pain Management
- Pathology—Clinical and Anatomic
- Podiatry (Surgery—Forefoot, Rearfoot/
Ankle, Advanced Rearfoot/Ankle)
- Pulmonary
- Radiology
- Radiation Oncology
- Sleep Medicine
- Surgery—Cardio-thoracic, General,
Hand, Neuro, Orthopedic, Plastic,
Thoracic, Transplant, and Vascular
- Urology

Signing Authority

Douglas A. Collins, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, approved this document on October 21, 2025, and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Taylor N. Mattson,
*Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer,
Department of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2025–19651 Filed 10–23–25; 8:45 am]

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