



OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

December 13, 1957

The Honorable
Lyndon B. Johnson
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Johnson:

This is in reply to your letter dated November 15, 1957, enclosing a letter from Doctor Hector P. Garcia, Corpus Christi, Texas, regarding benefits for disabled veterans.

It is the policy of the Department of Medicine and Surgery to authorize treatment visits to private physicians in the number sufficient to care for the veteran's actual needs. A report on the application of this policy has been received from the Manager, Veterans Administration Regional Office, San Antonio, Texas. He advises that the Chief Medical Officer or his assistant personally reviews and evaluates each request for authorization of treatment. Based upon the reports of treatment submitted by the fee basis physicians, and the professional judgment of the Chief Medical Officer or his assistant, treatment visits are authorized in an amount determined to be adequate to provide good medical care.

The Manager has informed me that Doctor Garcia's requests for care appear to be in excess of actual need and are not supported by his reports of treatment. Efforts by the Chief Medical Officer to resolve differences of professional opinion with Doctor Garcia have not been successful to the present time.

On the basis of the foregoing report, it is our considered judgment that eligible veterans in the San Antonio Regional Area are being provided adequate care.