

**DENTAL PROGRAM FOR VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (VHA)  
MEDICAL FACILITIES**

- 1. PURPOSE:** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive establishes authority and policy for the implementation of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) VHA Dental Program.
- 2. SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES:** Major changes in this revision include:
  - a. Additional policy references (see par. 4).
  - b. Additional program elements defined (see par. 5).
- 3. RELATED HANDBOOK:** VHA Handbook 1130.01
- 4. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:** The Office of Dentistry (10NC7) is responsible for the contents in this VHA Directive. Questions may be addressed to (202) 461-6951
- 5. RESCISSIONS:** VHA Directive 1130 dated December 7, 1998 is rescinded.
- 6. RECERTIFICATION:** This VHA Directive is scheduled for recertification on or before the last working day of December 2016.

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Under Secretary for Health

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## **DENTAL PROGRAM FOR VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (VHA) MEDICAL FACILITIES**

**1. PURPOSE:** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive establishes policy concerning uniform and consistent national procedures for providing oral and dental health care to eligible Veterans. *NOTE: VHA Handbook 1130.01 provides the expectations, procedures, and reporting requirements for Dental Services under the auspices of VHA's Office of Dentistry.*

**2. POLICY:** It is VHA policy that the dental services provided to eligible Veterans must be in accordance with the provisions of existing law and regulations.

### **3. RESPONSIBILITIES**

a. **VHA Office of Dentistry.** The VHA Office of Dentistry is responsible for establishing policy and procedures for provision of dental services that facilitate improvements in oral health, contributing to the overall health and well being of eligible Veterans.

b. **Responsibilities of the Assistant Under Secretary for Health For Dentistry.** The Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Dentistry is responsible for:

(1) Acting as the principle advisor to the Under Secretary for Health on patient focused dental health care strategy, clinical policy, dental operations and analysis of legislative initiatives impacting dentistry.

(2) Overseeing all Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) dental clinics.

### **4. REFERENCES**

a. Title 38 United State Code (U.S.C) 1710(c).

b. Title 38 U.S.C. 1712.

c. Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) sections 17.160 through 17.166.

d. Title 38 CFR section 1720 (d).

### **5. DEFINITIONS**

a. **Dental Operations Program.** The Dental Operations Program provides direction, oversight and guidance on the myriad of processes which enable the Office of Dentistry and the Dental Services to operate efficiently and effectively to provide dental treatment for outpatients and inpatients in accordance with their statutory eligibility.

b. **Dental Health Care Analysis.** Dental Health Care Analysis oversees the continued development, implementation, and maintenance of VA's enterprise dental electronic health record, as well as the development and application of dental specific clinical and business decision systems designed to improve organizational performance.

c. **Central Dental Laboratories.** The Central Dental Laboratories, established as authorized by the Under Secretary for Health, are maintained to the extent necessary for support of VA dental services that are not provided by Dental Service Laboratories.

d. **Homeless Veteran Dental Program.** The Homeless Veteran Dental Program was developed to provide basic dental services for Homeless Veterans.

e. **Long-term Care Dental Program.** The Long-term Dental Care Program includes residents in VA Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs, Domiciliaries, VA Community Living Centers, and other long-term care units.