

From: Davey, Michael (Portland)
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2017 4:42 PM
To: Sanders, Karen M., MD (VHACO)
Subject: Suggestion to assist research mission

Dr. Sanders,

I have a suggestion for you to consider as part of the discussion on July 12 & 13 with the NAAC to facilitate research participation by faculty members and students at our affiliates. I hope this suggestion is not too granular.

As you know, the VA uses a) Medical Education Affiliation Agreements and b) Trainee Qualification and Credentials Verification Letters (TQCVL) to rapidly onboard our clinical trainees (medical students and PGY trainees). Through this process, the VA accepts the review of credentials and health status (exams, vaccinations, etc) performed by the affiliate such that these are not repeated at the VA. VA employee health does not need to perform physical exams or do lab testing.

Can we come up with a comparable, stream-lined approach for faculty members and graduate students (basic science PhD candidates and post docs) from our academic affiliate when they seek WOC appointments to participate in VA based research programs? I am not talking about faculty who come to the VA to function as licensed independent practitioners. Rather, faculty, graduate students and post docs who collaborate in our wet labs, veterinary medical unit or in clinical research where protected health information is involved.

Under our current local rules, graduate students and fellows must be evaluated by employee health and in some case have physical exams (outsourced to a contractor). All of these individuals have had health assessments at the affiliate. Accepting these exams and reports would cut 10-20 business days from the process of becoming a WOC employee.

To summarize, can we create a mechanism similar to Affiliation Agreements and TQCVL to allow faculty from the affiliates come to the VA under a WOC appointment for research purposes (not for patient care or clinical rotations) to accept the health status of candidates for WOC appointments and bypass the need for re-evaluation by VA employee health? I understand that that finger printing, background checks and a photo ID will still be required.

Sincerely,
Michael Davey, MD, PhD
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