

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: **MAR 19 2012**

From: Chief Research and Development Officer (10P9)

Subj: Research Information Security and Privacy Advisory Panel

To: Administrative Officers, Research & Development (R&D)
Associate Chiefs of Staff, R&D
Medical Centers Chief Information Officers
Medical Center Chiefs of Staff
Medical Center Directors (00)
Medical Center Information Security Officers
Medical Center Privacy Officers
Research Compliance Officers
Network Chief Information Officers
Network Information Security Officers
Network Chief Medical Officers
Network Directors (10N1-23)
Network Research Compliance Officers

1. The Offices of Informatics and Analytics, Information Technology, Research and Development, and Research Oversight, recognize the challenges faced within the research community with interpreting information security and privacy policies. To address this issue, the Research Information Security and Privacy Advisory Panel has been created to aid in the interpretation and clarification of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Veterans Health Administration (VHA) information security and privacy policies related to the performance of research activities.

2. The Advisory Panel's primary goal is to advise medical centers, Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN), researchers, and other relevant units and individuals regarding interpretation and clarification of information security and privacy policy, as related to research. A related goal is a uniform approach regarding these policies. These goals will be accomplished by a) providing a secure tool for questions and requests for policy clarification, b) appropriate vetting by Advisory Panel members, and c) formal response to the requestor.

3. The Advisory Panel will meet monthly to review questions and requests for policy clarification. All inquiries must be submitted using the approved submission template, which is available from the panel website at <https://vaww.ord.portal.va.gov/sites/comm/RISPAP/submit/default.aspx>. Anyone within the VA community may submit an inquiry to the Advisory Panel. While it is not required to gain local approval prior to submission, the resulting clarification will be distributed to all stakeholders at the local level.

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4. We look forward to hearing from you. Please direct all questions to VHACORISPAP@va.gov.

Research Information Security and Privacy Advisory Panel

 _____ Adrienne Ficchi, Director VHA Health Information Governance	<u>3/19/12</u> Date	X _____ Jerry L. Davis DAS, Information Security	<u>3/19/12</u> Date
		Jerry Davis, Deputy Assistant Secretary Office of Information Technology	
 _____ Joel Kupersmith, M.D., Chief Research and Development Officer Office of Research & Development	<u>3/19/12</u> Date	 _____ Peter Poon, Associate Director Office of Research Oversight	<u>3/19/12</u> Date

cc: Roger Baker, Assistant Secretary, Office of Information Technology (005)
Robert L. Jesse, M.D., Ph.D., Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health (10A)
William Schoenhard, FACHE, Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and
Management (10N)
Madhulika Agarwal, M.D., M.P.H., Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Policy and
Services (10P)
Gail Graham, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Informatics
and Analytics (10P2)
J. Thomas Puglisi, Ph.D., Chief Officer, Office of Research Oversight (10R)