VA National Standards of Practice

Overview of VA National Standards of Practice

To improve access and delivery of health care for all Veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is implementing the new Electronic Health Record (EHR) and developing National Standards of Practice for licensed, certified, and registered professionals. These changes will enhance parity with the Department of Defense (DoD), as well as facilitate and support VA's increased mobility when responding to national emergencies.

Engage Labor Obtain input Post within VA and on

Understand State variances Develop proposed draft of national standards

Review within VA Engage Labo Unions and other vested parties Obtain input from State Boards Post within VA and on Federal Register for feedback

Revise national standards Publish national standards Implement across all VA with all employees

VA Internal Development

Professional and Public Engagement

Federal Publication

- 1. VA reviews variances in State licensing, certification, or registration requirements to identify tasks and duties that will enhance the practice and efficiency of the profession throughout VA.
- 2. VA consults with appropriate internal and external stakeholders such as VA field-based employees; VA's offices for Workforce Management and Consulting, Patient Safety, Accreditation, Credentialing and Privileging, and General Counsel; Office of Management and Budget; unions; Veterans Service Organizations; professional organizations; academic affiliates; State boards; Department of Defense; and Congress.
- 3. VA provides concurrence and publishes new VHA policy, establishing the national standard of practice.

WHAT IS CHANGING?

- VA new national policy will standardize practice for 50 health care occupations
- VA health care professionals can practice across State lines irrespective of conflicting State requirements

WHY IS IT CHANGING?

- To create transparency, efficiencies, and quality assurances
- To protect VA health care professionals against adverse State actions

WHY IS IT CHANGING NOW?

- To facilitate and support increased mobility of the VA workforce during COVID-19
- To support the new EHR rollout and enhance parity with DoD

WHAT IS NOT CHANGING?

- Adherence to VA's existing qualification standards
- Practice of duties that are beyond the scope of education, training, or skill
- Whether occupations operate at the facility level under privileges, scopes of practice, or functional statements

RISKS OF NOT CHANGING?

- Potential adverse State action
- Inability to support VHA's 4th
 mission and move our health care
 professionals seamlessly in times
 of crisis
- Ineffective implementation of new EHR

BENEFITS OF CHANGING?

- Consistency of practice across all VA medical facilities
- VA support for national emergencies within U.S.
- Enhanced legal protections for VA health care professionals

*38 CFR 17.419 confirms VA's authority under the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution to allow VA health care professionals to practice their VA health care occupation in any State and for VA to develop national standards of practice for each occupation irrespective of conflicting State requirements.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For more information and resources, please visit https://www.va.gov/standardsofpractice/

