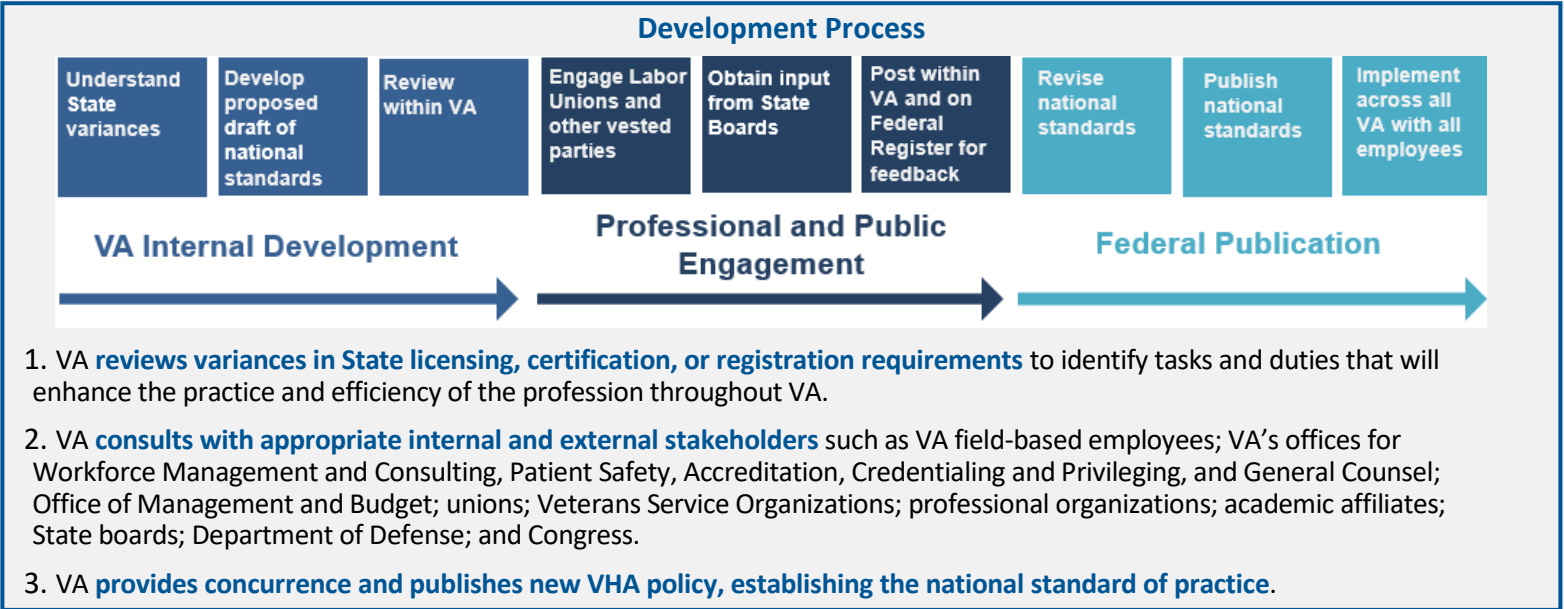


# VA National Standards of Practice

## 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.



**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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/standardspractice/>