

May 16, 2024

REQUIRED PARTICIPATION IN THE REGIONAL READINESS CENTER STOCK ROTATION PLAN

1. PURPOSE

a. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) notice establishes interim policy and updates VHA Directive 1761, Supply Chain Management Operations, dated December 30, 2020, requiring all Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities to utilize medical supplies managed by the Regional Readiness Center (RRC). Effective immediately, the Veteran Integrated Services Networks (VISNs) and VA medical facilities must accept RRC contingency-inventory shipments on a regularly scheduled cadence (quantities and VA medical facilities must be coordinated between the RRC and VISN) to ensure effective management of critical contingency stock.

b. The purpose of the stock rotation plan is to mitigate significant financial risk of the Regional Readiness Centers (RRCs) due to expiration of items being held in support of Supply Chain (SC) Resiliency. The notice also aligns with Veteran Affairs Acquisition Regulation (VAAR) 808.002 (a)(1)(i), Agency Inventory (VA inventories including the VA Supply Stock Program & VA Excess); inventory available from the RRCs as part of the stock rotation plan must be considered first, before going to any external agency or vendor and must be the first source of supply in the ordering hierarchy.

2. BACKGROUND

a. The RRC maintains a contingency inventory of medical supplies for future public health emergencies.

b. To achieve continued readiness and maintenance of the inventory, in accordance with Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulation (VAAR) 808.002 (a)(1)(i), Agency Inventory (VA inventories including the VA Supply Stock Program & VA Excess), the Procurement and Logistics Office (P&LO) requires monthly rotation of material to VA medical facilities.

c. The RRCs ensures VHA has an enduring capacity to support medical supply chain resiliency and respond to public health emergencies. This requires RRCs to stock items that require rotation to avoid expiration.

d. With the termination of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency on May 11, 2023, along with the recovery of the supply chain, the RRC requires a stock rotation plan/notice to prevent unnecessary waste of taxpayer dollars and potential risk to resiliency for the stock maintained for future emergencies.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. **Program Manager, Regional Readiness Center.** The Program Manager, RRC is responsible for coordinating with VISN supply chain staff to allocate the inventory to the VISN's respective VA medical facilities utilizing a monthly rotation plan established in the method prescribed by the RRC program and to identify VA medical facilities receiving RRC contingency-inventory shipments.

b. **Veterans Integrated Services Network Chief Logistics Officer.** The VISN Chief Logistics Officer is responsible for:

(1) Coordinating with the Program Manager, RRC to determine quantities of RRC contingency-inventory shipments and identify VA medical facilities receiving RRC contingency-inventory shipments.

(2) Ensuring that the VISN and identified VA medical facilities within the VISN receive RRC contingency-inventory shipments on a regularly scheduled cadence per the RRC's monthly rotation plan.

c. **VA Medical Facility Director.** The VA medical facility Directors at VA medical facilities identified by the VISN Chief Logistics Officer and the Program Manager, RRC as receiving RRC contingency-inventory shipments, are responsible for ensuring that a monthly cadence is established for the receipt of RRC contingency-inventory shipments.

4. POLICY OWNER

All inquiries concerning this action should be addressed to the Office of Support Services, Procurement and Logistics (19PLO) at VHALOGOPSCENTER@va.gov.

5. LOCAL DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS: There are no local document requirements in this directive.

6. This VHA notice will be effective until replaced or archived on May 31, 2025.

**BY DIRECTION OF THE OFFICE OF THE
UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH:**

/s/ Alfred A. Montoya, Jr., MHA, FACHE
Acting Assistant Under Secretary for Health
for Support

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