

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: March 29, 2012
From: Acting Chief Academic Officer (10A2D)
Subj: Requests for Proposals – Chief Residents in Quality and Patient Safety
To: VISN Directors, VISN CMOs, VISN Academic Affiliations Officers, Facility Directors

1. The Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) is issuing a new request for proposals (RFP) for Chief Residents in Quality and Patient Safety (CRQS). Up to twenty (20) sites will be competitively selected and funded on an ongoing basis beginning July 1, 2013 (Academic Year 2013-14).
2. The CRQS RFP allows facilities to request new physician chief resident base positions to enhance their ability to care for Veterans by redesigning medical education and patient care to include the area of quality and patient safety. Applicants are expected to demonstrate innovative approaches in educating physicians in the area of quality and patient safety. **The CRQS is a non-accredited, post-residency position.**
3. These chief residents must have completed their primary residency training for initial board eligibility and qualify for credentialing and privileging as licensed independent practitioners (LIPs) in their specialty. The CRQS is both a teaching and a training role, which must be distinguished from the more traditional administrative role of chief residents in some specialties. The CRQS position is for one-year. See the RFP for full eligibility requirements. Suggested continuation tracks include: Advanced Fellowships in Patient Safety (1-year) or the VA Quality Scholars program (2-3 years). Those sites with a current CRQS are eligible to apply for a second position.
4. A national curriculum is under development. Selected sites will be expected to participate in the national curriculum and to allow the CRQS incumbents and their faculty mentors to obtain training offered by OAA and by the National Center for Patient Safety.
5. Currently, 10 VA Medical Centers already have CRQS positions and as of July 1, 2012, this will increase by an additional 10 sites. The results of these pilots have shown the following benefits that accrue to facilities with these CRs:
 - a. Focus on quality improvement and patient safety in residency education (teaching quality and patient safety more junior residents)
 - b. Benefits to residency training programs (assists in meeting new accreditation requirements)
 - c. Benefits to hospitals' systems (improved outcomes, reduced adverse events, and furtherance of a culture of safety)
 - d. Development of future clinical faculty in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety
6. Facilities responding to this solicitation should submit proposals by the **deadline of June 15, 2012** to receive consideration. All application materials will be submitted online

through entry available on the OAA Support Center via secure log-in by the local education office (<http://vaww.oaa.med.va.gov/Login.aspx>) beginning **April 16, 2012**.

7. If you have questions about this request, please contact Christy Howard, CRQS Project Manager at 804-675-5062 or Christy.howard@va.gov, or Dr. Judy Brannen at 804-675-5481 or Judy.brannen@va.gov .



Karen M. Sanders, M.D.

cc: ADUSH for Workforce Services (10A2)
Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health (10A)
Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management (10N)