



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Inspector General
Washington, DC 20420

TO: Assistant Inspector General for Healthcare Inspections

FROM: Director, Kansas City Office of Healthcare Inspections (54KC)

SUBJECT: Healthcare Inspection – Alleged Delay in Diagnosis and Treatment of Cervical Cancer, VA North Texas Healthcare System, Dallas, Texas

Reason for Administrative Closure – Tort Claim

In responding to a complainant's allegations of wrongdoing, we attempted to arrange an interview with the patient named as affected in this case. Multiple attempts to reach the patient were unsuccessful, though we left messages requesting a return call. The patient sought advice from Region 13 General Counsel as to whether our calls should be returned. On March 22, 2011, an attorney from that office contacted us and reported an active tort claim was now in progress relating to the issues identified by the complainant. We informed the attorney that, in lieu of an ongoing tort claim, our further assessment of the complainant's allegations was being administratively closed.

Purpose

The purpose of this inspection was to evaluate whether the allegations of a delay in diagnosis and treatment of cervical cancer at the Dallas VA Medical Center, Dallas, TX had merit.

Background

An anonymous complainant alleged that a female patient's cervical cancer condition was not diagnosed in a timely manner, was poorly managed, and that care was ineffectively coordinated at the Dallas VA Medical Center.

Conclusions

As events and circumstances pursuant to the patient's medical condition have become the subject of a pending tort claim, we are administratively closing this case.



JOHN D. DAIGH, JR., M.D.
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Healthcare Inspections

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