



Administrative Closure
Home Oxygen Issues
Iowa City VA Health Care System,
Iowa City, IA
MCI # 2013-00173-HI-0335

In September 2012, a complainant sent a letterⁱ to the Office of Inspector General Hotline Division alleging that a respiratory therapist (RT) at the Iowa City Health Care System, Iowa City, IA (the facility) provided home oxygen to patients without current prescriptions. The letter also cited multiple personnel-related issues which were outside the OIG's scope and were not addressed during this investigation. The Hotline division referred the allegation to the OIG Office of Healthcare Inspections for review.

During a telephone interviewⁱⁱ on December 27, the complainant told us that the allegation has been resolved. The clinical management of the Home Respiratory Care Program (HRCP) moved from the Prosthetics Department to the Respiratory Care Department (RCD) and the facility hired two RTs to manage the clinical portion of the program and to ensure home oxygen prescriptions remain current.

On December 31, OIG interviewed the QM Program Analyst/Accreditation Readiness Specialist,ⁱⁱⁱ the Chief of Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service,^{iv} and the RCD Clinical Supervisor.^v The QM Program Analyst stated she conducted a comprehensive audit^{vi} of the HRCP during September, 2012. The audit revealed that 122 of 685 files (26%) did not have a current home oxygen prescription as required. The Chief of Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service stated that facility leadership transferred the clinical management of the HRCP to the RCD and established a Home Respiratory Care Team (HRCT) in response to the September QM audit.^{vii} The RCD Clinical Supervisor stated that the facility has developed a procedure that requires RTs to maintain all prescription expiration information in an Excel spreadsheet.^{viii} We confirmed all 834 HRCP patients have current home oxygen prescriptions.

We determined the facility properly addressed the complainant's home oxygen prescription concern and therefore we administratively closed the case.

Approved by:

JOHN D. DAIGH, JR., M.D.

Assistant Inspector General
for Healthcare Inspections

1/17/13