

VAU.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**Fact Sheet**Office of Public Affairs
Media RelationsWashington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov**Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014
Section 301(b): Treatment of Staffing Shortage and Biennial Report on Staffing of
Medical Facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs
(Increase of Graduate Medical Education Residency Positions)**

On August 7, 2014, President Obama signed into law the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146) ("Choice Act"). Technical revisions to the Choice Act were made on September 26, 2014, when the President signed into law the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-175). The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) goal continues to be to provide timely, high-quality health care for Veterans.

Background

Section 301(b) calls for VA to increase the number of graduate medical education residency positions at medical facilities of the Department. The Choice Act increases the number of graduate medical education residency positions by up to 1,500 over a five-year period, with an emphasis on positions in primary care, mental health, and other specialties the Secretary deems appropriate.

Medical Residency Programs**Increase in Residency Positions**

The Choice Act requires VA to increase the number of graduate medical education residency slots by up to 1,500 over a five-year period. Graduate medical education residency programs occur after medical school graduation; they require 3 to 7 years of additional training and allow physicians to gain specialty knowledge and judgment.

Medical residents directly contribute to the clinical care of Veterans in their role as supervised trainees who are granted clinical responsibility. VA's participation in graduate medical education programs also assists VA in the recruitment and retention of high quality clinical staff.

Location and Timeline

The program issued its first program announcement on September 17, 2014, with the first cohort of new residents who would rotate to the VA from affiliated institutions for their clinical experience to begin at the start of the next academic year (July 1, 2015).

VA will continue to call for physician residency requests annually for four additional years.

Reporting

VA will submit an annual report to Congress on graduate medical education residency positions at VA medical facilities beginning October 1, 2015 and annually through 2019.

More information on VA's Graduate Medical Residency Program

For further information on VA's Graduate Medical Residency programs, visit the following website http://www.va.gov/oa/gme_default.asp or contact Dr. Barbara Chang at 502-287-4722 or Dr. Judy Brannen at 804-675-5481.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How will the medical residency program improve Veterans' health care?

A: Medical residents directly contribute to the clinical care of Veterans in their role as supervised trainees granted graduated clinical responsibility. VA's participation in graduate medical education programs also assists VA in recruitment and retention of high-quality clinical staff.

Q: When will the VA's implementation of the law with respect to medical residency programs become effective?

A: VA issued its first program announcement on September 17, 2014, with the first cohort of new residents beginning at the start of the next academic year (July 1, 2015).