

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

This Veterans
memorializes VHA's long-standing practice of
deliver health care services in a State of
licensure, registration, or certification so
unrestricted license, registration, or certi
professionals to practice and operate with
certification they hold.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENT:

a. Amendment dated June 2, 2020, and
Appendix A.

b. Amendment dated May 12, 2020:

(1) Clarifies the definition of health care
definition to state that trainees must practice

(2) Adds Appendix B to define the "practice"

c. This new VHA directive memorializes
health care professionals to deliver health
care professional's State of licensure, re
current, full, and unrestricted license, re
encourages VA medical facilities

April 21, 2020

VHA DIRECTIVE 1899(2)

6. RECERTIFICATION: This VHA directive is scheduled for recertification on or before the last working day of April 2025. This VHA directive will continue to serve as national VHA policy until it is recertified or rescinded.

/s/ Richard A. Stone, M.D.
Executive in Charge

DISTRIBUTION: Emailed to the VHA Publication Distribution List on April 21, 2020.

NOTE: All references herein to VA and VHA documents incorporate by reference subsequent VA and VHA documents on the same or similar subject matter.

CONTENTS

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN VA

1. PURPOSE..... 1

2. BACKGROUND..... 1

3. DEFINITIONS 1

4. POLICY 3

5. RESPONSIBILITIES 3

6. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS 5

7. TRAINING 5

8. RECORDS MANAGEMENT..... 5

9. REFERENCES..... 6

APPENDIX A

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS COVERED BY THIS DIRECTIVEA-1

APPENDIX B

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE OF PSYCHOLOGISTS.....B-1

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN VA

1. PURPOSE

This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) directive memorializes VHA's long-standing practice of allowing VA health care professionals to deliver health care

to the official attestation by a professional organization that one has fulfilled the requirements or met a standard or skill to practice the profession.

b. Health Care Professional . The term health care professional is an individual who:

4. POLICY

a. It is VHA policy that VA health care professionals are permitted to practice in any State within the scope of their VA employment in any VA medical facility, regardless of the State where the professional is licensed, registered, or certified.

b. It is VHA policy to encourage Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN) Directors and VA medical facilities, to the maximum extent practicable, to allow health care professionals to practice and operate within the full scope of the of the license, registration, or certification that the individual holds. VISN and VA medical facility Directors are strongly encouraged to use health care professionals to the full scope of their license to address access shortages of certain health care professions and other issues relevant to the delivery of health care to VA beneficiaries.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. Under Secretary for Health. The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Under Secretary for Health is responsible for

(1) Ensuring overall VHA compliance with this directive; and

(2) Reviewing reports from the Director of the Office of Regulatory and Administrative Affairs (ORAA) of external actions initiated, pending, or completed by a State or State Licensing Board against VA health care professionals regarding their State license, registration, or certification as a result of practicing across State lines in compliance with this directive.

b. Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Policy and Services. The Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Policy and Services is responsible for overseeing VHA compliance with and implementation of this directive.

c. Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management. The Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management is responsible for:

(1) Communicating the contents of this directive to all VISN

April 21, 2020

VHA DIRECTIVE 1899(2)

regarding their State license, registration, or certification for practicing across state lines in compliance with this directive into one report no less than every 3 months, with the first report due no later

6. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- a. VA medical facilities must report any external actions

April 21, 2020

VHA DIRECTIVE 1899(2)
APPENDIX A

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS COVERED BY THIS DIRECTIVE

- w. Optometrist;
- x. Orthotic and Prosthetic Services;
- y. Peer Specialist;
- z. Pharmacist;
- aa. Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Specialist;
- bb. Physical Therapist;
- cc. Physician Assistant;
- dd. Physician;
- ee. Podiatrist;
- ff. Psychologist; and
- gg. Social Worker.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE OF PSYCHOLOGISTS

This directive allows psychologists to practice and operate within the full scope of the license, registration, or certification they hold. The “full scope of the license” is defined by the specifics of the licensure law in the State in which the psychologist is licensed and by the Psychologist Qualification Standards (VA Handbook 5005/103, dated April 15, 2002, see Part II, Appendix G18, dated February 7, 2018).

1. As noted in paragraph 3.a.(1) of the Psychologist Qualification Standards, “professional psychology practice” includes but is not limited to the following psychology-oriented job duties: providing professional clinical services, conducting research, carrying out education and training activities, carrying out program evaluation activities, clinical consultation, supervision and administration.
2. In VHA, “professional psychology practice” does not include allowing a psychologist to prescribe medications, even if such psychologist’s State Psychology licensure permits prescribing.