

OPTOMETRY C&P WORKGROUP CALL Wednesday 10/20/2016 Minutes
Call led by Brian LeStrange and Makesha Sink

1. Future of C&P exams at the VA.

Dr. David Shulkin, the undersecretary of health released the following video outlining that a significant amount of C&P exams are conducted by VHA employees, and that will continue. There have been no changes to the way we conduct C&P exams, and we have no plans to eliminate the positions of VHA employees currently conducting C&P exams. Starting in fiscal year 2017, VBA will be able to increase its funding for VBA contracted examinations globally. As a result, VHA will sunset our National Disability Examination Management Contract in January 2017 and VBA will now be responsible for any workload that requires the use of a contractor.

<http://vawww.ush.va.gov/index.asp>

Also the following attachment, the DMA Fact Sheet, has some information as well.



DMA Fact Sheet on
Contracted C & P Exar

Discussion ensued with providers stating that they have noticed a cut in number of exams at their facility since October 1. Contractors are held to a 20 day turnaround for completing exams once the 2507 is issued. VA Secretary McDonald, and the VBA director of C&P services, Thomas Murphy both echo the statement above from Dr. Shulkin's video.

We encourage you to be in conversation with other C&P providers in your facility to see if there is a change in # of exam requests over the next few months. If you are seeing a decline, please let Drs. Sink and LeStrange know so we can track trends.

2. If any of you have not requested access to JLV (Joint Legacy Viewer), we highly encourage you to do so. It is a system that allows you to review service time records for your patients. It is very helpful when a chart review is requested and if the service member or veteran has been in the service since ~2005 to present. The system allows you to filter through records by subspecialty or by provider with date range options, etc. For recent veterans or IDES claims it is 90% faster than VBMS for claims that require chart review. You can also use JLV with VA patient care for continuity of care in transitioning from the military to the VA for patients with chronic eye disease, trauma, TBI, etc. To get access, just call the VA IT National Service help desk at 1-855-673-4357 and ask for JLV access.
3. Our future calls will continue to be quarterly on the following dates. They have been added to your calendar as a reminder. 1/18/2017, 4/19/2017, 7/19/2017, 10/18/2017
4. Thanks for all you do and if you have any questions, or any ideas for future meeting topics or agenda items, feel free to contact us. makesha.sink@va.gov and brian.lestrange@va.gov