

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE
CONFERENCE CALL**

AGENDA

November 19, 2010

3 p.m. Eastern Time

1 (800) 767-1750, Access Code: 16019

1. Announcements:

- a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions
 - i. Dr. Horn states there are several positions open and to please reference the attachment.
<http://www.vacareers.va.gov/index.cfm>
[http://www.navao.org/documents/11_19_2010/Open Optometry Positions List 2010.doc](http://www.navao.org/documents/11_19_2010/Open_Optometry_Positions_List_2010.doc)
- b. VHA Mission & Vision Statements
 - i. Dr. Horn comment. Please follow the link to find the VHA Mission and Vision statement.
<http://vaww.ush.va.gov/Excellence>
- c. VHA Directive 2010-048, Copayment for Outpatient Medical Care to Veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs – This VHA Directive provides policy for charging the outpatient copayment.
 - i. Dr. Horn comment. There were no new changes to the copayments for outpatient care in ophthalmology and optometry to note. The copay is still \$50. The only thing to note is that when a patient is fee based out they are more stringent on collecting their copayments for those visits.
[http://www.navao.org/documents/11_19_2010/VHA Directive 2010-048, Copayment for Outpatient Medical Care Provided to Veterans by DVA.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/11_19_2010/VHA_Directive_2010-048_Copayment_for_Outpatient_Medical_Care_Provided_to_Veterans_by_DVA.pdf)
- d. VHA Handbook 1605.04, Notice of Privacy Practices – This VHA Handbook establishes the procedures for maintaining and distributing the VHA Notice of Privacy Practices.
 - i. [http://www.navao.org/documents/11_19_2010/VHA Directive 2010-048, Copayment for Outpatient Medical Care Provided to Veterans by DVA.pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/11_19_2010/VHA_Directive_2010-048_Copayment_for_Outpatient_Medical_Care_Provided_to_Veterans_by_DVA.pdf)
- e. VHA Handbook 1200.05, Requirements for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research – This VHA Handbook establishes procedures for the protection of human subjects in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) research, which must be implemented no later than March 31, 2011.

- i. http://www.navao.org/documents/11_19_2010/VHA_Handbook_1_200.05_Requirements_for_the_Protection_of_Human_Subjects_in_Research.pdf
 - f. IL 10-2010-017, Under Secretary for Health's IL: Compensation and Pension (C&P) Examination Scheduling – This VHA Information Letter clarifies guidance regarding contacting Veterans about C&P examinations. Direct communication with Veterans improves the service provided to them
 - i. http://www.navao.org/documents/11_19_2010/IL_10-2010-017_USH_s_IL_on_CP_Examination_Scheduling.pdf
 - g. IL 10-2010-018, Capture of Workload Data for Rehabilitation Services – This VHA Information Letter provides recommendations regarding the capture of workload data for inpatient rehabilitation services.
 - i. http://www.navao.org/documents/11_19_2010/IL_10-2010-018_Capture_of_Workload_Data_for_Rehabilitation_Services.pdf
 - h. This link is provided as a resource tool to the National Library Purchases including E-books, E-journals and other databases available for use.
 - i. http://www.navao.org/documents/11_19_2010/IL_10-2010-018_Capture_of_Workload_Data_for_Rehabilitation_Services.pdf
- 2. Optometric Education Programs - Drs. Grimes/Messer/Slagle – unavailable for comment.
- 3. Optometry Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Horn
 - a. Dr. Horn comment. The field advisory group has a chair that rotates every 3 years and currently Dr. Selvin is the new chair of the field advisory committee (FAC).
- 4. Optometry Recruitment Representatives - Drs. Bennett/Gay – unavailable for comment.
- 5. Infection Control/Reusable Medical Equipment Reprocessing - Drs. Horn/White
 - a. Dr. Horn comment. The new Haag Streit disposable tonometer tips have expiration dates on them. Please address this issue at your facility to follow manufacturer guidelines especially if you are still using the old tonometer tips.
- 6. Teleretinal Imaging Program - Drs. Cavallerano/Selvin – unavailable for comment.
- 7. DoD/VA Vision Center of Excellence & Eye Injury Registry - Dr. Townsend – unavailable for comment.
- 8. TBI Vision Rehabilitation - Drs. Gagnon/J. Kirby

- a. Dr. Horn comment. There is a DSS identifier specific to TBI that should be paired with your stop code (197 attached to your secondary 408 or 407) for optometry. A letter came out Oct 20, 2010 that states any patient with a diagnosis of TBI admitted to a Department of Veteran Affairs poly - trauma center must have a TBI specific ocular health and visual functioning exam performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist. This is a way to track TBI patients and you may need to have a separate clinic just for the TBI patients at your facility to have these codes associated. If you need more information, please email her at mary.horn@va.gov.
 - b. Please follow this link to the TBI specific memorandum.
 - i. [http://www.navao.org/documents/11_19_2010/TBI-Visual_Func_Exam_DSS_Identifier_Memo_10-20-10_\(2\).pdf](http://www.navao.org/documents/11_19_2010/TBI-Visual_Func_Exam_DSS_Identifier_Memo_10-20-10_(2).pdf)
9. Low Vision Rehabilitation EES Program - Drs. Fuhr/Gagnon/Mancil – unavailable for comment.
10. Optometry Quality Improvement - Dr. Norden – unavailable for comment.
11. VA Systems Redesign/Wait Times - Drs. Belkin/Ficarra – unavailable for comment.
12. VA Research Announcements & Solitations - Dr. Mancil – unavailable for comment.
<http://vaww.research.va.gov/news/announcements/default.cfm>
http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/solicitations/default.cfm#All_ORD
13. VHA Optometry Service Websites - Drs. Cordes/Ficarra/Hamilton – unavailable for comment.
14. VA Optometry Service Directory - Drs. Egusa/Lim/Pewitt – unavailable for comment.
15. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory - Dr. Wang – unavailable for comment.
16. AFOS Report - Dr. Wasik – unavailable for comment.
17. NAVAQ Report - Drs. Kawasaki/Storer
 - a. Report given by Kathleen Gernhart. Please note that we now have a “VA Optometry Service News” announcement page in the member’s area of our website. The link is under the “Member Area Pages” menu on the right side after you login to the website. Announcements from the VA Optometry Service will be re-posted here for your reference.
 - b. The Newsletter Committee is in the process of creating a continuing education section to help our members easily locate local CE outside of the major optometric conferences. They are asking that members submit information on small conferences that they have attended that they felt were a good resource for continuing education. Please also consider any announcements you may have for our *Keeping In Touch* section, which includes personal and professional announcements for our members.

Please email all submissions or ideas to Dr. Tomasini at dawn.tomasini@va.gov.

- c. We are currently in the process of updating the FAQ sheets in the “Member’s Area” of our website and would appreciate member feedback about the current ones, as well as suggestions for other topics of interest. Please send an email to info@navao.org with your comments.