

**OPTOMETRY SERVICE
CONFERENCE CALL**

AGENDA

August 20, 2010

3 p.m. Eastern Time

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

1. Announcements:

a. Open VA Optometry Staff Positions

http://www.navao.org/documents/08_19_2010/Open_Optometry_Positions_List_2010.doc

<http://www.vacareers.va.gov/index.cfm>

i. Dr. Horn comment: There are several positions open for those that are interested in changing their location or knows someone who would like to join the VA. You can find that information on usajobs.gov or follow the link above.

ii. If you have positions available, please contact Matt Cordes to keep the home VA webpage updated.

b. VHA Mission & Vision Statements

http://www.navao.org/documents/08_19_2010/VHALogo-Mission-Vision_8-10-10.pdf

i. Dr. Horn comment: There are new Mission and Vision statements for the VA.

c. VHA Directive 2010-035

http://www.navao.org/documents/08_19_2010/VHA_Directive_2010-035_Medical_Marijuana.pdf

The purpose of this Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive is to provide guidance on access to and the use of medical marijuana by Veteran patients. (PDF directive 2010-035)

i. Dr. Horn comment: You may want to look over it pertaining to eye care in regards of using it as treatment for glaucoma. Some states have authorized the use of medical marijuana but it is contrary to federal law; therefore, as VA providers we cannot complete the form seeking medical marijuana for our patients.

ii. This directive came out July 22, 2010.

d. Office of Patient Care Services Guidance on VHA Directive 2010-035

http://www.navao.org/documents/08_19_2010/Medical_Marijuana_Clinical_Considerations_8-4-2010.docx

i. Dr. Horn comment: In August, another document relating to this subject was published that was a “softer” version of how the VA wants to handle medical marijuana. Please refer to this attachment from the Office of Patient Care Services. It states we cannot fill out the forms but gives us a little responsibility to work with their outside providers in monitoring their care and plan.

ii. Please let Dr. Townsend know if you are dealing with this issue of patients asking for medical marijuana.

- e. VHA Handbook 1601B.05, Beneficiary Travel
http://www.navao.org/documents/08_19_2010/VHA_Handbook_1601B.05_Beneficiary_Travel_07-21-2010.pdf
 - i. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook provides information on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Beneficiary Travel Program that went into effect on July 30, 2008
 - f. Pharmacy Benefits Newsletter and Ez Minutes, May-July 2010
http://www.navao.org/documents/08_19_2010/Pharmacy_Benefits_Newsletter_May_2010_-_July_2010.docx
 - i. Dr. Horn comment: Review the newsletter - sometimes you will find medications the VA is looking at to add to the formulary or those they just turned down to not put on the formulary.
2. Optometric Education Programs - Drs. Grimes/Messer/Slagle
- a. Dr. Slagle comment: ORMs has changed their servers and the new url is now www.optometryresident.org . An email has been sent to all the programs to verify that all their links are correct. The three links to verify are that programs should be listed by the state, by the type of program, and by the school affiliate.
 - b. Reminder: The new opening date for applications this year is August 1st
 - c. Reminder: If any programs need to make a change in their ORMs listing, the deadline is September 1st.
 - d. Reminders: September 1st is also the deadline for resident case reports to be submitted to academy.
3. Optometry Field Advisory Committee - Dr. Horn
- a. Dr. Horn comment: The Field Advisory Committee is having their annual meeting in September 23rd and 24th in Washington, DC. One day they will meet with the ophthalmology field advisory committee and the other day they will just meet with the optometry committee.
4. Optometry Recruitment Representatives - Drs. Bennett/Gay
- a. Dr. Bennett comment: There are 39 volunteers, so far, across 13 of the VISNs and they now have a sample powerpoint that has been distributed to those volunteers. This powerpoint presentation can be used or modified in terms of using it for presentations for schools/colleges. Dr. Gay has put together a basic form that introduces the optometrist as a contact person for VA recruitment to send to state associations and schools. He is also considering, with permission, to put together a blanket mail-out for a point of contact to be distributed to the schools.
5. Infection Control/Reusable Medical Equipment Reprocessing - Drs. Horn/White
- a. Dr. White comment: There are groups doing site inspections to local facilities, please be prepared. Please look over your SOPs and competencies to make sure they are up to date.
 - b. Another big change is that Haag Streit has released new information about their reusable tonal prisms. Apparently there was a change made last year in which Haag Streit released 2 new field notices. One change was that when you were disinfecting the reusable tonal prisms at the end of the disinfection process you need to rinse the prisms under cold water for no less than 10 minutes which is a change from the previous process of rinsing the prisms for no more than 60

minutes. Please check with your local SPD to make sure they are following that guideline. http://www.navao.org/documents/08_19_2010/FSN_20June-2010_EN.pdf

- c. The other change is that all tono prisms are now being stamped with an expiration date. That date will be 5 years from the date of manufacture. In addition, Haag Streit states once you start using a reusable prism it has to be discarded 2 years after use.
 - d. Dr. White inquired about current prisms that do not have that expiration date on them. The feedback was that although there is nothing in writing, if you do not know how long that prism has been in use it should be discarded immediately and replaced. This will become an issue keeping track of when the prisms need to be replaced and the extra costs that will accrue. However, these are printed guidelines from the manufacturer which need to be followed at the VA clinics. (attachment)
 - e. Dr. Horn comment: One concern she had was the guideline that all prisms should be inspected for damage with the slit lamp.
 - f. Dr. White comment: There was an issue with damage to the prisms due to a defect in the glue that holds the prism in place. There were some reports of injuries included a corneal abrasion. He suggests that all prisms should be inspected for damage before use.
http://www.navao.org/documents/08_19_2010/Tono_Prism_Info_Aug_08_EN.pdf
http://www.navao.org/documents/08_19_2010/Tono_Prism_Reminder_June_09_EN.pdf
 - g. Dr. White suggested to perform a cost analysis of disposable vs. reusable tono prisms due to these new changes.
 - h. Dr. Golis comment: regarding the reliability of the disposable prisms.
 - i. Dr. White states he has been pleased with the comparability to the reusable prisms. Looking back at the literature, disposable prisms are comparable to reusable prisms until you get above 25 mmHg where the tonosafe disposable will give you a slightly higher reading, but it is still within a fairly small window of discrepancy. (0.19mm possibly) The suggestion was made that you use disposable tips for routine care and reusable tips for glaucoma patients.
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: unavailable for comment
 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
 - a. Dr. Pewitt comment: The website has been updated so the services directories has been updated during that transition. If there are any changes to the directory, please contact the committee members.
15. VA Residency Trained Optometrist Directory - Dr. Wang: unavailable for comment
16. AFOS Report - Dr. Wasik: unavailable for comment
17. NAVAIO Report - Drs. Kawasaki/Storer
 - a. Dr. Kawasaki comment: NAVAIO is currently in the process of updating the FAQ sheets on 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.
 - b. Please mark your calendars for our annual dinner meeting which will be held the evening of Thursday, November 18, 2010 in conjunction with the American Academy of Optometry meeting in San Francisco. Please stay tuned for more details as the date gets closer. Registration will be online through the NAVAIO website as usual.
 - c. Residency & Research Fellow Coordinators: Please consider encouraging your Residents and/or Research Fellows to join the NAVAIO. All Resident and Research Fellow Members have a discounted membership rate of \$25 and receive special pricing for the annual NAVAIO dinner meeting.