

**Date:** March 26, 2021

**From:** Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Patient Care Services/Chief Nursing Officer (12)

**Subj:** Authority of VA Health Professions Trainees and Other VA Health Care Professionals to Serve Veterans Through Telehealth Across State Lines (VIEWS 4329282)

**To:** Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) Directors (10N1-23)

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to describe changes to the VA telehealth authorities included in the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which became law on January 1, 2021. Section 9101 of the NDAA amended 38 U.S.C. § 1730C to clarify that VA health care professionals working under supervision, including health professions trainees and other qualified VA health care professionals, may practice their health care profession through telehealth in any state, irrespective of the Veteran's or VA professional's location.

2. Under explicit legal authority in the recently amended 38 U.S.C. § 1730C, the following VA health care professionals may participate in telehealth care across state lines, including when a Veteran is off federal property, if under clinical supervision by a qualified VA health care professional:

- a. Health professions trainees (HPT), and
- b. VA health care employees described in 38 U.S.C. 7401(1) or (3) who are working to obtain an active, current, full and unrestricted licensure, registration, certification, or working to meet qualification standards as defined by the Secretary, within a specified time frame.

3. The explicit legislative expansion of VAs "Anywhere-to-Anywhere" telehealth authority" will enhance access for Veterans while preparing the country's future clinical workforce to deliver high quality, safe telehealth services.

4. Additional information about HPT participation in telehealth can be found at the following VA intranet address:

<https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VHAOAA/public/SitePages/Telehealth.aspx>

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5. Questions about this memorandum can be addressed to Dr. Karen Sanders, Acting Chief Officer, VHA Office of Academic Affiliations, at [Karen.Sanders@va.gov](mailto:Karen.Sanders@va.gov) or 202-841-5998 or Dr. Kevin Galpin, Executive Director, VA Telehealth Services, at [Kevin.Galpin@VA.gov](mailto:Kevin.Galpin@VA.gov) or 404-771-8794.

Beth A. Taylor  
376247

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Taylor 376247  
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Beth Taylor, DHA, RN, NEA-BC