VHA DIRECTIVE 1120 Transmittal Sheet July 29, 2009

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION (NCP)

- **1. REASON FOR ISSUE.** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive defines the policy and responsibilities of the National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (NCP) (11NCP) within the Office of Patient Care Services (OPCS).
- **2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS/CHANGES.** This is a new Directive establishing the framework for policy and responsibilities for the programs in NCP and reflects the change in administrative responsibility for patient education from the Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) to the Office of Veterans Health Education and Information (VHEI) in NCP. **NOTE:** In other related documents, the leadership for NCP is titled Director; because of an organizational change in Patient Care Services the title changed to Chief Consultant for Preventive Medicine, which is used in this Directive.
- **3. RELATED ISSUES.** VHA Handbooks 1120.02 and 1101.1 and other Handbooks not yet published.
- **4. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY.** The Chief Consultant for Preventive Medicine at National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (11NCP) in OPCS is responsible for the contents of this Directive. Questions may be referred to (919)-383-7874, ext. 222.
- 5. RESCISSIONS. None.
- **6. RECERTIFICATION.** This VHA Directive is scheduled for recertification on or before the last working day of July 2014.

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION (NCP)

1. PURPOSE: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive defines the policies and responsibilities of the National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (NCP).

2. BACKGROUND

- a. The VA National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (NCP), a section of the Office of Patient Care Services (OPCS), was established in 1995. The purpose of NCP is to provide a central office for monitoring and encouraging VHA activities with respect to the provision, evaluation, and improvement of preventive health services and to promote the expansion and improvement of clinical, research, and education activities related to VHA preventive health services (see Title 38 United States Code (U.S.C.) 7318).
- b. The Preventive Medicine Field Advisory Committee (PMFAC) is composed of representatives of Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) Preventive Medicine Leaders, other field-based clinicians who are preventive medicine subject matter experts, and representatives from VHA Program Offices with a prevention focus, including, but not limited to: Office of Patient Care Services, Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards (13), Office of Nursing Services (108), Office of Quality and Performance (10Q), Office of Research and Development (12), and Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management (10N). PMFAC members are all Federal employees and are appointed by the Chief Consultant for Preventive Medicine, NCP, in consultation with the Chief Patient Care Services Officer.
- **3. POLICY:** It is VHA policy that NCP serves as the primary VHA office in advising the Under Secretary for Health on matters of evidence-based VA prevention policy, services, and patient education.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. <u>National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (NCP).</u> NCP is responsible for:
- (1) Advising the Under Secretary for Health on matters of evidence-based VA prevention policy, services, and patient education.
- (2) Collaborating with the Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards (13) on prevention policy and services related to specific clinical topics, including: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), hepatitis C, tobacco use, women's health, and employee wellness issues.
- b. <u>The Chief Consultant for Preventive Medicine</u>. The Chief Consultant for Preventive Medicine is responsible for the overall policy, planning, coordination, and direction of all NCP

activities within VHA. Specific program offices within NCP include: Community Health, Health Promotion/Employee Wellness, MOVE! Weight Management Program, Clinical Prevention Policy, Clinical Prevention Practice and Veterans Health Education and Information (VHEI).

- c. <u>The Community Health Program Manager</u>. The Community Health Program Manager is responsible to the Chief Consultant for serving as the VHA central coordinator and resource for community based partnerships and activities related to the HealthierUS Veterans initiative.
- d. <u>The Health Promotion and Employee Wellness Program Manager</u>. The Health Promotion or Employee Wellness Program Manager is responsible to the Chief Consultant for serving as a VHA coordinator and resource for health promotion for both patients and employees for non-occupationally-related personal health and wellness issues.
- e. <u>The National Program Director for Weight Management</u>. The National Program Director for Weight Management is responsible to the Chief Consultant for serving as the VHA central coordinator and resource for weight management programs (e.g., MOVE!) in medical centers and community-based out-patient clinics, including oversight of compliance with minimal core weight management program requirements.
- f. <u>The Clinical Prevention Policy Program Manager</u>. The Clinical Prevention Policy Program Manager is responsible to the Chief Consultant for serving as the VHA central coordinator and resource for development and coordination of prevention-related VHA policies.
- g. <u>The Clinical Prevention Practice Program Manager</u>. The Clinical Prevention Practice Program Manager is responsible to the Chief Consultant for serving as the VHA central coordinator and resource for health promotion and disease prevention programs in medical centers and community-based out-patient clinics, including oversight of compliance with minimal core prevention program requirements.
- h. <u>The VHEI Program Manager.</u> The VHEI Program Manager is responsible to the Chief Consultant for serving as the VHA central coordinating resource for Veteran health education services, including oversight of compliance with minimal core Veteran health education program requirements.
- i. <u>PMFAC Members.</u> PMFAC members are responsible for assisting in the assessment of and providing advice on new clinical techniques and prevention advancements, formulation of VHA prevention policy, and the monitoring of VHA prevention program performance. The PMFAC identifies field prevention challenges, priorities for improvement, and opportunities for disseminating best prevention practices.

5. REFERENCES

- a. Title 38 U.S.C. Section 7318.
- b. Title 38 U.S.C. Section 1701.

- c. NCP intranet website: http://vaww.prevention.va.gov/. NOTE: This is an internal web site and not available to the public.
 - d. NCP internet website: http://www.prevention.va.gov/.
- e. MOVE! Intranet website: http://vaww.move.med.va.gov . *NOTE:* This is an internal web site and not available to the public.
 - f. MOVE! Internet website: http://www.move.va.gov/.
 - g. HealthierUS Veterans website: http://www.healthierusveterans.va.gov/.
 - h. VHA Handbook 1101.1.
 - i. VHA Handbook 1120.02.

6. DEFINITIONS

- a. <u>Community Health.</u> Community Health refers to collaboration with community-based organizations to provide or support programs and activities that promote health for Veterans.
- b. <u>Health Promotion</u>. Health promotion refers to informational, motivational, and clinical activities designed to encourage improvement in the health and well-being of individuals.
- c. <u>Employee Wellness</u>. Employee wellness refers to a program of services offered to employees that provide opportunities to enhance health and wellness through targeted activities designed to reduce specific health risks
- d. <u>MOVE!</u> MOVE! refers to the Weight Management Program for Veterans. It is a comprehensive, evidence-based, population-level, tiered, multidisciplinary weight management program tailored for the VA population.
- e. <u>Prevention.</u> Prevention refers to health-related interventions or services for individuals or groups that aim to prevent or minimize future morbidity and mortality by delaying or averting the onset or severity of disease or detecting already existing disease at an early stage when it can be more successfully treated.
- f. <u>Clinical Prevention Policy</u>. Clinical Prevention Policy is guidance issued by VA Central Office to guide clinical or administrative actions taken by VA staff related to the provision of prevention-focused interventions or services.
- g. <u>Clinical Prevention Practice</u>. Clinical Prevention Practice is actions taken by VA staff in the planning, provision, or evaluation of prevention-related interventions or services.

h. <u>Veterans Health Education and Information (VHEI)</u>. VHEI is a coordinated approach to planning, delivering and evaluating Veterans health education programs, services and resource materials for Veterans and, as appropriate, their family members.