

May 21, 2001

**POLICY CHANGE TO VHA SUPPLEMENT MP-5, PART II, CHAPTER 2
RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT**

NOTE: These policy changes have already been incorporated into the electronic version of VHA Supplement to MP-5, Part II, Chapter 2, and can be accessed at <http://vaww.va.gov/hrdirectives>.

1. **PURPOSE:** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Notice implements section 204 of the Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-419, dated November 1, 2000). Section 204 made two changes to Title 38 United States Code (U.S.C.) 7405(c).

a. The first change permits the temporary appointment of graduate physician assistants who are waiting certification for a period of up to 2 years.

b. The second change permits the appointment of medical support personnel on a temporary basis, not-to-exceed 3 years, with renewals permitted for like periods.

2. VHA Supplement to MP-5, Part II, Chapter 2, is changed as follows:

a. In paragraph 2.29 a (3) (a) is changed as follows:

"(a) A graduate nurse who has successfully completed a full course of nursing in an approved nursing school; [a graduate physician assistant who has completed a full course of training as a physician assistant in an approved program;] or a graduate of an approved training or educational program in an occupation identified in 38 U.S.C. 7405(a)(1)(B),...,etc.)."

b. In paragraph 2.29 a (3) (c), is changed as follows:

"(c) A graduate [PA,] RT, PT, OT, or pharmacist who fails to qualify for licensure, registration or certification will be permitted to remain on VA rolls pending results of reexamination provided reexamination occurs prior to the expiration date of the temporary appointment."

c. [Delete paragraph 2.29 a (3) (d).]

d. In paragraph 2.31 a (1) is changed as follows:

(1) The third sentence will read: "Appointments of medical support personnel, other than trainees and students, may be made on a temporary full-time [basis for a period not-to-exceed 3 years, or on a] part-time or intermittent basis for a period not to exceed 1 year."

(2) At the end of the third sentence, insert the following new sentences:

[Full-time appointments under this authority may be renewed for one or more additional periods not in excess of 3 years each. Part-time and intermittent appointments are non-renewable.]

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e. In paragraph 2.31 d (1) (a) delete and insert the following new paragraph:

[(a) Full-time appointments must be temporary, not-to-exceed 3 years and are renewable for like periods. Part-time and intermittent appointments must be temporary not-to-exceed 1 year and are non-renewable.]

3. These changes will be incorporated into VA Handbook 5005, "Staffing" before the expiration of this Notice.

4. The Office of Human Resources Management, Customer Advisory and Consulting Group (051) is responsible for the contents in this VHA Notice.

5. **RESCISSION:** This VHA Notice expires June 1, 2002.

S/ Frances Murphy, M.D. for
Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.
Under Secretary for Health

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