

June 11, 2003

**SPECIAL PAY FOR TITLE 38 PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS
IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

- 1. PURPOSE:** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Notice rescinds the administrative exclusion of Career Development appointees in the Office of Research and Development (ORD) from receipt of the scarce specialty pay component of physician and dentist special pay.
- 2. BACKGROUND:** Administrative exclusions to the special pay provisions are determined by the Under Secretary for Health and may be re-examined and revised as necessary. VA Handbook 5007, Part IX, paragraph 1.c.(2)(b) excludes the payment of special pay based on service in a scarce specialty to Career Development appointees funded by the ORD. This administrative exclusion was appropriate at the time of its enactment. However, the exclusion discourages researchers in certain specialties from applying for career development awards, and it no longer serves its original purpose.
- 3. REVISION:** The administrative partial exclusion in paragraph 1c(2)(b) of VA Handbook 5007, Part IX, is revised to read as follows:

“Career Development appointees in the Office of Research and Development are entitled to all components of special pay, including scarce specialty pay, only if they are regularly assigned patient care responsibilities of 25 percent or more of their VA appointment. The Chief of Staff will document this assignment in writing on VA Form 10-5379e, Special Pay Computation -- Physicians and Dentists. Certification shall be made when the individual enters the special pay agreement and on the annual verification of that agreement under paragraph 13b of this part. Payment of any component of special pay to which Career Development appointees may be entitled will be made in accordance with the provisions of this Part and the individuals’ clinical specialties.”
- 4. RESCISSION:** This VHA Notice expires June 30, 2007.

S/ Nevin M. Weaver for
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Under Secretary for Health

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