

September 2, 2004

## OUTDATED NATIONAL CLINICAL REMINDERS TO BE RESCINDED

**1. PURPOSE:** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Notice provides notification to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Centers, Information Resources Management (IRM) departments, and health care providers of the discontinuance of a select number of nationally released clinical reminders that are deemed to be outdated.

### 2. BACKGROUND

a. From 1996 to the present, national clinical reminders have been released to the field to provide clinicians with clinical decision support tools to assist in complying with recommended care. As clinical practice guidelines have evolved over the years, clinical reminders have changed to incorporate the clinical guidelines and support standardization in care. With changes in healthcare delivery, many of the previously released national reminders are considered to be outdated and no longer comply with the national clinical practice guidelines.

b. With the release of Clinical Reminders version 2.0 in the first quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 2005, 37 of the nationally-released clinical reminders considered to be outdated will be rescinded.

c. The National Clinical Practice Guideline Council (NCPGC) is responsible for assessing all nationally released clinical reminders for compliance with clinical practice guidelines.

### 3. GUIDANCE

a. At the release of Clinical Reminders version 2.0, the 37 clinical reminders will be automatically inactivated and the national reminder name space changed from VA to ZZ for both the national reminder and the print name field. Upon rescission, maintenance of these clinical reminders will be discontinued.

b. The national clinical reminders to be rescinded with the release of Clinical Reminders 2.0 are:

- (1) VA-\*BREAST CANCER SCREEN,
- (2) VA-\*CERVICAL CANCER SCREEN,
- (3) VA-\*CHOLESTEROL SCREEN (F),
- (4) VA-\*CHOLESTEROL SCREEN (M),
- (5) VA-\*COLORECTAL CANCER SCREEN (FOBT),
- (6) VA-\*COLORECTAL CANCERN SCREEN (SIG),

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- (7) VA-\*FITNESS AND EXERCISE SCREEN,
- (8) VA-\*HYPERTENSION SCREEN,
- (9) VA-\*INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION,
- (10) VA-\*PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE,
- (11) VA-\*PROBLEM DRINKING SCREEN,
- (12) VA-\*SEATBELT AND ACCIDENT SCREEN,
- (13) VA-\*TETANUS DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION,
- (14) VA-\*TOBACCO USE SCREEN,
- (15) VA-\*WEIGHT AND NUTRITION SCREEN,
- (16) VA-ADVANCED DIRECTIVES EDUCATION,
- (17) VA-ALCOHOL ABUSE EDUCATION,
- (18) VA-BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK,
- (19) VA-BREAST EXAM,
- (20) VA-BREAST SELF EXAM EDUCATION,
- (21) VA-DIABETIC EYE EXAM,
- (22) VA-DIABETIC FOOT CARE ED,
- (23) VA-DIABETIC FOOT EXAM,
- (24) VA-DIGITAL RECTAL (PROSTATE) EXAM,
- (25) VA-EXERCISE EDUCATION,
- (26) VA-FECAL OCCULT BLOOD TEST,
- (27) VA-FLEXISIGMOIDOSCOPY,
- (28) VA-INFLUENZA VACCINE,
- (29) VA-MAMMOGRAM,

- (30) VA-NUTRITION/OBESITY EDUCATION,
- (31) VA-PAP SMEAR,
- (32) VA-PNEUMOVAX,
- (33) VA-PPD,
- (34) VA-PSA,
- (35) VA-SEATBELT EDUCATION,
- (36) VA-TOBACCO EDUCATION, and
- (37) VA-WEIGHT.

**4. ACTION:** Each Medical Center Director is responsible for ensuring that the continued use of any of the national clinical reminders listed in paragraph 3 is warranted, and that the facility Information Resource Management (IRM) service is responsible for copying the national clinical reminder(s) to the local name space, and for its continued maintenance.

#### **5. REFERENCES**

- a. National Clinical Practice Guideline Council (NCPGC).
- b. National Clinical Practice Guideline Clinical Reminders Sub Committee.
- c. Office of Information, Health Systems Design and Development.

**6. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY:** The Office of Information (19F) is responsible for the contents of this Notice. Questions may be referred to 202-273-6954.

**7. RESCISSION:** This VHA Notice will be rescinded September 30, 2008.

Jonathan B. Perlin, MD, PhD, MSHA, FACP  
Acting Under Secretary for Health

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