

May 17, 2004

ACCREDITATION OF VA PROSTHETIC AND ORTHOTIC LABORATORIES

1. PURPOSE: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive creates policy necessary for the management and quality assurance of the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids (PSAS) Strategic Healthcare Groups (SHG) Prosthetic and Orthotic Laboratories.

2. BACKGROUND

a. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) conducted a program evaluation of the care and treatment provided to veterans who utilize PSAS. The majority of VA Prosthetic and Orthotic Laboratories do not meet all of the criteria for industry accreditation (only five out of fifty-two facilities were accredited as of January 15, 2003).

b. The Chief Consultant, PSAS, was directed to appoint a multidisciplinary workgroup to make recommendations for upgrading the quality and management of the VA PSAS Prosthetic and Orthotic Laboratories.

c. This national Prosthetic Clinical Management (PCM) workgroup, referred to as the Prosthetic and Orthotic Laboratories and Artificial Limb PCM, reviewed the report and recommended that VA Prosthetic and Orthotic Laboratories achieve industry accreditation through the American Board for Certification (ABC) or through the Board for Orthotist and/or Prosthetist Certification (BOC). This accreditation mandates that each facility have, among its staff, at least one prosthetist and/or orthotist certified by either ABC or BOC.

3. POLICY: It is VHA policy that quality patient care will be provided by furnishing properly prescribed prosthetic and orthotic appliances to all eligible veterans in the most economical and timely manner within the legal limitations of VA. *NOTE: ABC or BOC accreditation is now required.*

4. ACTION: VA Medical Center Directors who have Prosthetic and/or Orthotic Laboratories must immediately assess the accreditation status of those laboratories. The Directors must then report the current status to the Chief Consultant, PSAS SHG, who, in turn, will recommend an individual plan of action, commensurate with laboratory status, to include development of a timeline for achieving accreditation.

5. REFERENCES: None.

6. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY: Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service Strategic Healthcare Group (113), is responsible for the contents of this Directive. Questions may be directed to (202) 273-8515.

THIS VHA DIRECTIVE EXPIRES MAY 31, 2009

VHA DIRECTIVE 2004-020
May 17, 2004

7. RESCISSIONS: None. This VHA Directive expires May 31, 2009.

Art Hamerschlag for
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