

April 27, 1989

1. Transmitted is a revision to Veterans Health Services and Research Administration Manual M-2, "Clinical Affairs," Part I, Chapter 25, "Establishment of New Physician-Directed, Patient Care Services." Brackets have not been used to indicate the changes.

2. Principal change:

Paragraph 25.02: Covers any recommendation for the establishment of a patient care service requiring a physician chief that is not covered in VA Organization Manual M-00-1, Part X.

3. Filing Instructions:

Remove pages

25-1

Insert pages

25-1

4. **RESCISSION:** M-2, part I, chapter 25, dated September 6, 1983.

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**Distribution: RPC: 1024
FD**

Printing Date: 5/89

CHAPTER 25. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PHYSICIAN-DIRECTED, PATIENT CARE SERVICES

25.01. POLICY

The VA Organization Manual M-00-1, prescribes ordinary patient care services for VA medical facilities and provides that "only services required to carry out the mission of facilities will be provided for in the organization. Services may be consolidated and additional services may be established when authorized and directed by the Chief Medical Director."

25.02 CRITERIA

The criteria as described below are to be used for evaluating any recommendation for the establishment of a patient care service requiring a physician chief that is not covered in VA Organization Manual M-00-1, part X.

a. Mandatory Requirements

(1) The physician proposed to be chief of the service, must be employed by the VA at least seven-eighths time, and be board certified or its equivalent.

(2) The service must have a minimum of two full-time employment equivalent physicians.

(3) Provision has been made to assure physician coverage for the service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

(4) Where beds are required for patient care, the proposed service must be assured of assignment of at least 10 beds.

(5) The facility must be affiliated with a medical school.

(a) The counterpart specialty at the medical school must have departmental status with the exception of Spinal Cord Injury.

(b) An approved and fully integrated residency program must exist in that specialty with the exception of Spinal Cord Injury.

(c) The proposed service chief shall have the rank of Associate Professor (or clinical equivalent) or higher.

b. Desirable Features

(1) All physicians assigned to the proposed service shall have faculty appointments.

(2) The physician staff of the proposed service shall be engaged in relevant research programs.

25.03 PROCEDURES FOR APPLICATIONS

Applications for establishment of a separate service addressing each of the above criteria and requests for approval of service chief assignments will be submitted through the appropriate Regional Director to the Associate Deputy Chief Medical Director (10B1B). Appropriate references for submitting applications are found in MP-5, part I, chapter 250, and VHS&RA Supplement thereto, and VA Organization Manual M-00-1.