

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Washington, DC 20420

M-3, Part I  
Chapter 8

July 22, 1992

1. Transmitted is a revision to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration Manual M-3, "Research and Development in Medicine," Part I, "General," Chapter 8, "Publication of Research Results."

2. The principal purpose is to update the policies and procedures relating to the publication of research results and to change the chapter title from "Research and Development Communications and Exhibits," to "Publication of Research Results."

3. Filing Instructions

Remove Pages	Insert Pages
v through viii	v through viii
8-1 through 8-2	8-i through 8-2

4. RESCISSIONS: M-3, part I, chapter 8, dated March 5, 1985, and VHA Circular 10-90-108.

Signed by C. Wayne Hawkins, for  
James W. Holsinger, Jr., M.D.  
Chief Medical Director

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## CHAPTER 8. PUBLICATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS

### 8.01 GENERAL

The formal presentation of research results to the scientific community is an essential part of the research process. The VA's (Department of Veterans Affairs) research program should receive public recognition for the support it provides to the Nation's scientific effort in the health care area; however, care should be taken that VA employees do not publicly present research reports that are scientifically inadequate.

### 8.02 PURPOSE

This chapter states policies and procedures governing the publication (or other public presentation) of research results of projects conducted wholly or partially by VA employees. Although the focus is on publications, the same provisions apply, with appropriate modifications, to all public presentations of research results in all media (including public appearances).

### 8.03 POLICIES

a. Medical center Directors shall encourage publication. Research funds (Programs 821, 822, 823 and 824) may be used, with the approval of the R&D (Research and Development) Committee, to pay page costs involved in publication and to purchase reprints for official Government use.

b. Medical center Directors should (i.e., suggested but not mandated) provide for the review of manuscripts prior to publication. The R&D Committee, staff members, and outside consultants may be used to ensure that manuscripts are scientifically acceptable, protect the privacy of patients, indicate that the welfare of animal subjects was protected, and satisfactorily acknowledge VA support and affiliation.

c. In publishing the results of scientific investigation, VA employees whose work has been supported by Program 821, 822, 823 or 824 funds are required to acknowledge both VA research support and VA employment.

### 8.04 PROCEDURES

a. Acknowledgement of VA Research Support. All publications shall contain the following (or equivalent) acknowledgement:

(1) "This material is based upon work supported by the Office of Research and Development (add, as applicable: Medical Research Service, or Health Services Research and Development Service, or Rehabilitation Research and Development Service) Department of Veterans Affairs."

(2) If no direct research funding was provided by VA, but the research involved the use of other VA resources, e.g., facilities or patients, a similar form of acknowledgement shall be included in the publication.

b. Acknowledgement of VA employment

(1) Authors of research publications shall acknowledge their VA employment according to the following format: "Chief, Surgical Service, Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, (City), (State)."

(a) When the author also holds a faculty appointment, the academic title and school may be given as well.

(b) When VA provides the major salary support, it shall be named first; when the school pays the greater part of the salary, it shall be named first.

(c) Authors of research publications are required to list place of VA employment if any of the following apply:

1. They are employed by VA more than 4/8 time;
2. Their primary (greater than 50 percent) research funding is either directly or indirectly from VA resources; or
3. The research supported was conducted primarily in VA facilities.

c. Sanctions. Failure to acknowledge VA support or employment as stipulated above may, at the discretion of the program director (i.e., Director, Medical Research Service, Health Services R&D, or Rehabilitation R&D), result in discontinuation of current VA R&D funding and/or ineligibility to receive future R&D funding for a period of up to 5 years.

d. Publication by contractors. The publication of research results by firms providing contracted services to VA will be governed by the terms of the contract. The contract terms should be consistent with the provisions of this Chapter with respect to review and acknowledgement of VA support.

e. Retention of research data. Research records and raw data shall be retained by the investigator for at least 5 years after publication or completion of the project. When VA investigators leave their laboratories, suitable arrangements should be made to transfer records and data to the new location or to archive such records and data with the Associate Chief Medical Director for R&D for the necessary time.

#### 8.05 REFERENCES

The following topics related to this chapter are discussed in other parts of M-3, parts I and II as follows:

a. Submission of progress and final reports may be found in M-3, part I, chapter 4, paragraph 4.03.

b. Obtaining project reports may be found in M-3, part I, chapter 4, paragraph 4.04.

c. Release of information under FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) may be found in M-3, part II, chapter 4, paragraph 4.01g.