

To: Ms. Siobhan M. Smith

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At Sony Montgomery Veterans Affairs Hospital the problem of patient exposure to contaminated instruments has been ongoing for over ten years now .Even after numerous committees and many changes there still continues to be problems.

Although some of the SPD staff has changed over the years the management that allowed this problem to continue for so long has not been held accountable.

It seems to be a culture at the Sony Montgomery Veterans Affairs Hospital that somehow veterans do not deserve the care that one would get in the private sector and that they do not deserve to be offered testing after exposure to blood borne pathogens.

Many people on the Pre-Clinical Risk Assessment Advisory Board (Pre-CRAAB) are directly responsible for allowing patient's to be exposed to contaminated instruments. It is like the "Fox Guarding the Hen House".

How many more patients need to be exposed to a possible life threatening contaminate before it is considered a problem? How many years and how many lives have to be affected before something is shut down and management is held accountable? How much blood and debris need to be on a contaminated instrument to warrant disclosure to patients.

What has been allowed to go on for so long without any major intervention is a disgrace against our soldiers and veterans. There needs to be a clear message to all involved that the Veterans Affairs does not allow harm to come to its patient's and if something happens there will be swift action to correct the deficiencies and all involved will be held accountable.