

## **Department of Veterans Affairs Human Research Protection Program Accreditation Requirements**

Any Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facility with a Federalwide Assurance must achieve accreditation of its Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) by an Accrediting Organization currently under contract with VA on a schedule to be determined by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Office of Research and Development (ORD). The schedule will be based on the facility's HRPP accreditation status and history.

**Loss of HRPP Accreditation by the Previous Vendor.** Loss of HRPP accreditation by a VA facility because of a transition to a new vendor is not noncompliance with VHA policy and does not need to be reported to the VHA Office of Research Oversight (ORO).

**New Institutional Review Board (IRB) Arrangements.** Every VA facility with new IRB arrangements must:

- (1) Submit an application to the HRPP Accrediting Organization under contract with VA not more than 18 months after the first protocol is approved by the new IRB.
- (2) Have obtained Full HRPP Accreditation within 18 months after the application submission date.

**Academic Affiliate Responsibilities.** If a VA facility uses its academic affiliate's IRB as its IRB of record, the affiliate must either:

- (1) Meet the requirements of the Accrediting Organization currently under contract with VA as part of the VA facility's HRPP accreditation application process; **or**
- (2) Within 18 months of the first date the VA facility obtains accreditation pending its affiliate's accreditation, the affiliate must obtain accreditation of its HRPP by either
  - (a) The Accrediting Organization currently under contract with VA, or
  - (b) An ORD-approved Accrediting Organization. ***As of May 2, 2012, ORD approves academic affiliate HRPP accreditation by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Inc. ® (AAHRPP).***

**VA Facility Responsibilities if its Academic Affiliate Does Not Meet Requirements.**

If the affiliate does not comply with provisions in the paragraph above, the VA facility must make other arrangements for IRB services (e.g., form its own IRB, use the IRB services of another academic affiliate, or use the IRB services of another VA facility). The new arrangements must be implemented no later than 18 months after the VA facility is first awarded Accreditation of its HRPP pending its affiliate's accreditation.

**Maintaining HRPP Accreditation.**

(1) Once a VA facility achieves accreditation of its HRPP by the Accrediting Organization currently under contract with VA, it must adhere to that Organization's requirements for maintaining accreditation.

(2) The VA facility Director must report any change in the facility's accreditation status in accordance with VHA Handbook 1058.01.

(3) If an academic affiliate providing IRB services to a VA facility elects to obtain accreditation of its HRPP on its own, it must adhere to its Accrediting Organization's requirements for maintaining accreditation. The VA facility Director must report any changes in the accreditation status of the academic affiliate to ORO in accordance with VHA Handbook 1058.01 and to ORD.