

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: **MAR 27 2015**

From: Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management (10N)

Subj: Delayed Accreditation Payments to American Psychological Association Across Veterans Health Administration (VAIQ 7581225)

To: Network Directors (10N1-23)
Chief Medical Officers (10N1-23)

1. The Office of Academic Affiliation (OAA), in collaboration with Mental Health Services (MHS), is reminding facilities of the requirement for psychology training programs to pay annual accreditation and accreditation site visit fees. OAA and MHS were notified in the fall of 2014 that approximately 25 percent of Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) psychology training programs were in danger of losing accreditation because of delinquent payments to the American Psychological Association's (APA) Commission on Accreditation.

2. The APA Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation, Education Directorate indicated that the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) psychology training programs have not consistently paid annual accreditation and/or site visit fee payments that are required to maintain programmatic accreditation. Facilities receive accreditation site visit invoices at the end of the month that the site visit occurred with the expectation of payment within 30 days, while annual accreditation invoices are sent to each VA medical center (VAMC) in June with payments expected by December 31st. Beginning in 2016, annual accreditation fee invoices will be sent to facilities in June, with payment due by August 31st.

3. VHA is the largest health care system training psychologists in the Nation with OAA's Associated Health Education section currently providing funding for 598 psychology internship positions at 111 VAMCs and 351 post-doctoral fellowship positions at 68 sites. To continue receiving funding from OAA, all psychology programs funded by Associated Health Education are required to achieve and maintain accreditation. Newly funded psychology training programs are expected to achieve accreditation within 3 years of operation.

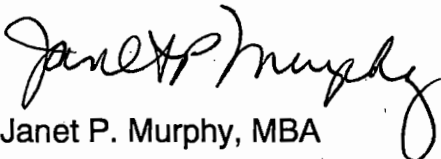
4. Continued OAA funding support to programs is contingent upon meeting the accreditation requirement. Newly funded programs through the Mental Health Education Expansion Initiative have been awarded positions only when there is a clear letter of support from the Medical Center Director documenting agreement to pay the annual and periodic re-accreditation fees. The expectation is that the fees are included in the facility's budgetary plans.

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5. Programs are asked to refer to OAA Intranet frequently asked questions (FAQs) for the appropriate procedures for making electronic payments to APA. The FAQ may be viewed at <http://vaww.va.gov/oaa/faqs/default.asp?TID=24&Cat=4> (see first question under "Accreditation" heading).

6. Veterans Integrated Service Network leadership is asked to ensure this information is relayed to all Medical Center Directors and mental health leadership. Questions may be directed to OAA's Associated Health Education section by email at Assoc.Health@va.gov. You may also contact Stacy Pommer at (202) 461-9877. Thank you in advance for your attention to this pressing matter.



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