

Resolution 06
Rehabilitation Committee

Veterans Choice Program changes

Whereas, the Veterans Choice Program is a temporary program, established in 2014, to improve Veterans' access to health care by allowing certain Veterans to elect to receive health care from eligible providers outside the VHA, and

Whereas, the program was established by section 101 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA), and

Whereas several legislative changes were made in 2015 expanding eligibility requirements to include all enrolled Veterans who meet eligibility criteria based on their residence or wait times, and

Whereas, the VHA Staff members (Eligibility, Fee Basis, and Business Office) all have different interpretations and confusion of the program, and the use and approval differs from one VHA Facility to another, and

Whereas, non-VHA providers, authorized under the Choice Program to provide care, have waited for periods exceeding six month for payment of services, and

Whereas, some veteran patients have inconsistently received communication from the Choice Contractor, and

Whereas, the treatment records are not forwarded to the VA Medical Centers for incorporation into the patient records, and

Whereas, over the past two years, we have witnessed inconsistent approval and use rates all over the county, with wait times only marginally impacted, **Now therefore**

Be it Resolved, that the Veterans Choice Program, national contractor be eliminated and

Be it Further Resolved, that the responsibility to manage non-VHA referrals (including Choice be placed in the hands of the VHA staff, primarily Fee Basis, and

Be it Further Resolved, that the funds saved by the elimination of the National Contractor be used to staff up the Fee Basis offices throughout the VHA facilities, and

Be it Further Resolved, that the rules be made plain and simple to understand to help streamline the referral process, and

Be it Finally Resolve, that if approved by the American Legion, Department of New York at its Department Convention in Syracuse, New York on July 20-22, 2017, that this resolution be forwarded to the National Organization for consideration at the National Convention in Reno, Nevada scheduled for August 18-24, 2017.