

Call for Concept Papers: Research on VHA Policy Directive on Informed Consent for Long-Term Opioid Therapy for Pain: Application to Patients with Cancer

Health Services Research & Development Service (HSR&D), in partnership with the National Center for Ethics in Health Care, requests the submission of concept papers to perform research related to the application of VHA Directive 1005 (May 6, 2014) on informed consent for long-term opioid therapy for pain. It is VHA policy that, prior to initiating long-term opioid therapy for pain (i.e. on a daily or intermittent basis for 90 or more calendar days), VHA opioid prescribers must complete a patient education and informed consent process that utilizes a nationally standardized informed consent form titled "Consent for Long-Term Opioid Therapy for Pain." However, this requirement does not apply to patients receiving long-term opioids for cancer pain; for these patients, oral consent is sufficient, and specific documentation of consent for opioids is not required.

We anticipate funding one research team to conduct a two-part investigation focused on the effects of possible application of this informed consent policy directive to VA cancer patients with pain. The two studies would include:

1. An observational study of existing data, to describe patterns of treatment and outcomes of VA cancer patients receiving long-term opioid therapy for pain;
2. A prospective pilot study to examine the impacts of an expanded consent process on patients treated for cancer pain.

Please email concept papers by November 24 to vhacoscirev@va.gov. The attached background and instruction documents provide additional information on the call for concept papers and formatting requirements.

A conference call to answer questions and provide additional information will be held **Monday, November 3 from 3:00 – 4:00 pm EST** (1-855-767-1051 Conference ID: 52317328).

Please contact Joshua Robinson (Joshua.Robinson@va.gov or 202-443-5664) for additional information or questions.