

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

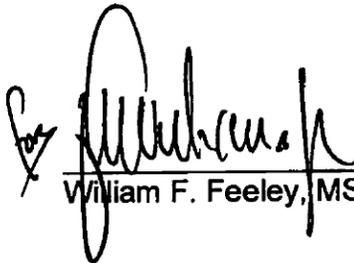
Date: APR - 1 2008

From: Deputy Under Secretary for Health Operations and Management (DUSHOM)
Chief Research and Development Officer (CRADO)

Subj: Rescission of Principal Investigator IT Certification Requirement

To: Network Directors (10N 1-23)

1. On February 6, 2007 our offices issued a memorandum "Certification by Principal Investigators Security Requirements for VA Research Information". This memorandum was issued as an immediate response to a recent data loss. It was intended to assist in ensuring that all VA Principal Investigators were aware of and were taking steps to comply with all policy requirements related to the privacy and security of all sensitive research data including that data derived from human subjects. Since last February a number of important safeguards have been put in place including new polices and procedures. These new polices and procedures are more specific and offer guidance on how to ensure, the security of all sensitive research data and the confidentiality of our veterans identifiable information.
2. Therefore, this memorandum rescinds the above cited February 6, 2007, memorandum. Annual certifications by VA Principal Investigators are no longer required and do not have to be submitted to the Associate chief of Staff for Research and Development each April 15th. VHA remains committed to protecting sensitive information including veterans' personal identifiers and health information and believes the new steps have advanced the protections of our veterans' information.
3. If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Brenda Cuccherini, Ph.D. by e-mail at Brenda.Cuccherini@va.gov or by phone at (202)254-0277.



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