



**American Hospital
Association®**

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AHA STATEMENT ON VETERANS' CARE INTERIM FINAL RULE

**RICH UMBDENSTOCK
PRESIDENT AND CEO
AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION**

November 4, 2014

America's hospitals are pleased that today's interim final rule issued by the Veterans Administration (VA) will facilitate the ability of veterans to receive care at a non-VA hospital when a veteran lives more than 40 miles away from or cannot be seen within 30 days at a VA facility. We are also pleased that the regulation will continue to allow hospitals to directly contract with the VA. However, we are disappointed by the narrow definition of "facility," which may not offer the specific service the veteran needs and may exclude some veterans from getting needed care in the right place at the right time. In addition, we had hoped to see a more detailed plan to ensure that care provided to veterans is reimbursed in a timely manner. As always, America's hospitals honor the service of our nation's veterans and stand ready to provide high-quality care for those who have served in the armed forces.

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