



Declaration of VA Research Principles

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) ranks as one of the nation's leaders in health research. Through the VA Research & Development program, thousands of studies are conducted at VA medical centers, outpatient clinics, and nursing facilities. This research has significantly contributed to advancements in health care for Veterans and other Americans from every walk of life. In the conduct of research, participants volunteer with a clear understanding that there may not be a direct benefit to their health. They do so, in many cases, with the hope of benefitting others in the future. For its part, VA Research commits to the protection of research participants as the highest priority.

We are grateful to all the Veterans who participate in VA research studies, making important health care advances possible and turning hope into reality.

VA commits that in the conduct of clinical research, VA will:

- **Ensure that all members of the research team conduct themselves as professionals, upholding the highest standards of quality and ethics in their work.**
- **Undertake clinical research only if it is reviewed, approved, and monitored by appropriate VA committees that ensure the research study is properly designed, does not involve undue risks, and includes safeguards for participants.**
- **Clearly explain that participation in a research study is voluntary and occurs only with consent, and that participants have a right to change their mind at any time without affecting their VA health care or benefits.**
- **Educate individuals who are considering enrolling in a research study about the study and its possible benefits and risks.**
- **Safeguard each participant's information.**

If you have any questions or feel these Research Principles have not been met, we encourage you to contact the Patient Advocates Office. You choose whether or not to disclose your name. Contacting the Patient Advocates Office will not affect your VA health care or benefits in any way.

Everyone in the medical center is responsible for making sure these principles are followed as a top priority.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Office of Research & Development

DISCOVERY  INNOVATION  ADVANCEMENT

For more information about research being done under the national VA Research and Development program, visit www.research.va.gov