

From the Summer 2003 Newsletter

SPOTLIGHT ON EVENTS

VHA Informed Consent Policy Revised

VHA national policy on informed consent contained in VHA Handbook 1004.1 has been revised and updated effective January 29, 2003. The revised policy (available online at: <http://www.va.gov/vhaethics/download/ICpolicy.doc>) clarifies the informed consent process, and emphasizes specific issues in obtaining consent, such as decision-making capacity, voluntary decision making, and consent for telemedicine and telehealth.

To educate VHA practitioners about changes in the policy, the National Center for Ethics in Health Care offered two national programs. A **National Ethics Teleconference** (NET) on January 29 (repeated on February 10) highlighted the implications of policy revisions for the informed consent process. A **national satellite broadcast** on February 27 featured ethical, legal, and clinical perspectives on the revised policy. CME/CEU credits were available for both educational programs.

A transcript of the NET is available online at: http://www.va.gov/vhaethics/resources_8.cfm. Streaming video of the satellite broadcast is also available online; videocassettes of the program are available through VHA facility libraries.