



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
National Center for Ethics in Health Care

November 2, 2020

VHA Directive 1004.06, IntegratedEthics® Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why was the IE Directive amended?

VHA Directive 1004.06, *IntegratedEthics*® (the IE Directive) was published on October 24, 2018 and replaced VHA Handbook 1004.06, dated August 29, 2013. The IE Directive was updated from a handbook to a directive to meet the formatting requirements of VHA Directive 6330, *Controlled National Policy/Directives Management System*, dated June 24, 2016.

The directive was amended on May 12, 2020, to remove a local policy mandate, reflecting VHA's move away from requiring a local VAMC policy for every national policy and the option to transition instead to a standardized, appropriate supplemental document in accordance with VHA Notice 2019-23, *Business Rules for VHA Program Offices* and VHA Notice 2019-24, *Mandatory Business Rules for Local Policy Development*, dated November 1, 2019.

On October 20, 2020 the directive was further amended to reflect, first, VA's transition to Cerner Millennium, VHA's new electronic health record, and second, to reflect the transition from ECWeb to IEWeb (IE's cloud-based ethics activity documentation application).

2. Where can I get a copy of the IE Directive?

The IE Directive and supporting materials are located on the National Center for Ethics in Health Care website:

- [Health Care Ethics Policy \(VA intranet\)](#)
- [Health Care Ethics Policy \(internet\)](#)

The directive is also available on the VHA Forms and Publications website [here](#).

3. With the implementation of Mandatory Business Rules for Local Policy Development, what changes should be made to local IE policy?

With the implementation of VHA Notice 2019-23, *Mandatory Business Rules for VHA Program Offices* and VHA Notice 2019-24, *Mandatory Business Rules for Local Policy Development* on July 2, 2020, VHA has moved away from requiring a local VAMC policy for every national policy. These business rules are intended to increase the integrity of VHA standards, reduce variability in processes, improve the consistency in national policy implementation, and significantly reduce the burden of developing and maintaining policies at every VA medical facility.

November 2, 2020- Check this link for the newest version:
http://www.ethics.va.gov/docs/policy/VHA_IE_Directive_FAQ.pdf

When your facility IE policy is due for renewal, it is recommended to transition your local MCM to a charter and/or other appropriate supplemental documents. The Office of Regulation, Policy, and Management (10B4) has provided standardized document types.

Suggested language for an IE Council Charter is available here:

https://vaww.ethics.va.gov/ETHICS/docs/policy/IE_Council_Charter_Template.docx.

Upon dissemination of your approved transitioned document, you will be required to rescind your local MCM. Please contact 10B4 for further guidance regarding the renewal and/or revocation of your local MCM policy.

As with all ethics-related policies, the IE Council is charged with reviewing and participating in the development and implementation of the local IE procedures that are consistent with policy requirements.

4. Whom can I contact about the IntegratedEthics® Directive?

Please send questions to VHAethics@va.gov.