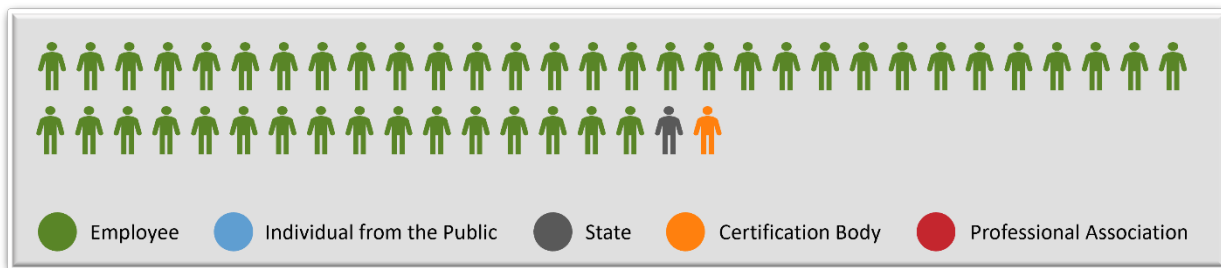


VA STANDARD OF PRACTICE FOR ART THERAPISTS

Comment Count Report

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is establishing VA's standard of practice for Art Therapists; this will be a standardized set of services that all VA Art Therapists can perform if their VA medical facility performs such services, and they have the education, training, and skill to perform the services.

On July 28, 2023, VA posted the proposed VA standard of practice for Art Therapists on the Federal Register ([88 FR 48955](#)) for public comment and within VA's intranet for VA employee comment. VA also sent letters to the national registration body (Art Therapy Credentials Board), the association that developed the standards (American Art Therapy Association) and State licensing boards for Art Therapists with the proposed VA standard of practice and an opportunity for them to comment directly to VA on the proposed standard. VA requested that all comments on the Federal Register, VA's intranet site and from the States and registration and standards bodies be provided within 60 days. The comment period closed on September 26, 2023, and VA received 48 comments in total.



VA received 46 comments from VA employees and 1 comment from the Art Therapy Credentials Board. As of September 26, 2023, VA received comments from 1 out of the 14 State licensing boards for Art Therapists; however, VA will continue to actively engage with States.

VA will review all comments received and make appropriate revisions to the VA standard of practice for Art Therapists in light of the comments, to include those that help VA meet its mission and goals through evidence-based practice and alternatives.

VA will post a collective response to all comments in a final report on <https://www.va.gov/standardspractice> once the VA standard of practice for Art Therapists is published in Veterans Health Administration Directive 1900, which will be available at <https://www.va.gov/vhapublications/publications.cfm?pub=1>.