

VA STANDARD OF PRACTICE FOR BLIND REHABILITATION SPECIALISTS

Comment Count Report

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is establishing VA's standard of practice for Blind Rehabilitation Specialists and Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST) Coordinators; this will be a standardized set of services that all VA Blind Rehabilitation Specialists and VIST Coordinators can perform if their VA medical facility performs such services, and they have the education, training, and skill to perform the services.

On July 1, 2022, VA posted the proposed VA standard of practice for Blind Rehabilitation Specialists and VIST Coordinators on the Federal Register ([87 FR 39595](#)) for public comment and within VA's intranet for VA employee comment. VA also sent a letter to the national certification and standards body for Blind Rehabilitation Specialists (the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals) 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 certification body be provided within 60 days. The comment period closed on August 30, 2022, and VA received 61 comments in total.



VA received 58 comments from VA employees, 2 comments from individuals from the public, 0 comments from the certification body and 1 comment from the American Optometric Association.

VA will review all comments received and make appropriate revisions to the VA standard of practice for Blind Rehabilitation Specialists and VIST Coordinators 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 Blind Rehabilitation Specialists and VIST Coordinators is published in Veterans Health Administration Directive 1900, which will be available at <https://www.va.gov/vhapublications/publications.cfm?pub=1>.