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Will Veterans Get Access to Physician Care?

The Department of Veterans Affairs has issued a rule proposing to let advanced practice nurses do the work of physicians without physician oversight in the care of veterans even if states require physician oversight.

This federal overreach would, for example, allow nurses to administer anesthesia without an anesthesiologist and diagnose and prescribe treatment without consulting a physician. The six-page proposal has led to more than 220,000 comments from individuals and organizations. Comments include opposition to the “VA gambling with our veterans’ lives,” and requests that the standard of care not be lowered. Isn’t it time that veterans be freed from the VA system and the limited choices and mandated experimentation of government health care?