

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date:

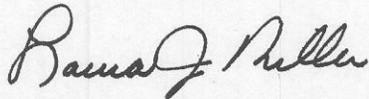
MAY 31 2005

From: Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management (10N)

Subj: iMedConsent – No New Tablet PC Purchases

To: VHA VISN Directors
Medical Center Directors

1. Until iMedConsent installation is completed throughout VHA, you are instructed not to purchase new hardware such as tablet PCs for use with the program. iMedConsent installation is expected to be completed by the end of fiscal year 2005. Facilities already using tablet PCs in a wireless environment may continue to use them with iMedConsent, provided the hardware meets the minimum client workstation requirements for the program. Facilities that are not using tablet PCs, or that are using tablet PCs that do not meet the requirements for iMedConsent, are instructed not to purchase new tablet PCs for use with iMedConsent at this time.
2. With lessons learned from the Bar Code Medication Administration (BCMA) deployment, the VHA VISN CIO Council (VCIOC) Executive Board raised concerns about the lack of appropriate, standard hardware purchased by VHA facilities for use with iMedConsent. The VCIOC Executive Board has asked the Office of Information (OI) and the National Center for Ethics in Health Care (Ethics Center) to help evaluate and recommend standard equipment for using iMedConsent in wireless/mobile environments. OI will conduct a study of the use of iMedConsent that has occurred to date in wireless mobile settings. The BCMA Program Office will also evaluate hardware platforms and mobile carts for this purpose, much as they are doing for BCMA.
3. Questions may be addressed to Chris Tucker in the BCMA Program Office at 785-350-4570, Ray Frazier in the Ethics Center at 202-501-1841, and Hank Rappaport in OI at 301-734-0491.



Laura J. Miller, MPA, CHE

cc: VHA VISN CIOs