

§ 17.510

shall be released to the General Accounting Office if such records or documents pertain to any matter within its jurisdiction.

(k) Confidential and privileged quality assurance records and documents shall be released to both VA and non-VA healthcare personnel upon request to the extent necessary to meet a medical emergency affecting the health or safety of any individual.

(l) For any disclosure made under paragraphs (a) through (i) of this section, the name of and other identifying information regarding any individual VA patient, employee, or other individual associated with VA shall be deleted from any confidential and privileged quality assurance record or document before any disclosure under these quality assurance regulations in §§17.500 through 17.511 is made, if disclosure of such name and identifying information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

(m) Disclosure of the confidential and privileged quality assurance records and documents identified in §17.501 will not be made to any individual or agency until that individual or agency has been informed of the penalties for unauthorized disclosure or redisclosure.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5705)

§ 17.510 Redisclosure.

No person or entity to whom a quality assurance record or document has been disclosed under §17.508 or §17.509 shall make further disclosure of such record or document except as provided for in 38 U.S.C. 5705 and the regulations in §§17.500 through 17.511.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5705)

§ 17.511 Penalties for violations.

Any person who knows that a document or record is a confidential and privileged quality assurance document or record described in §§17.500 through 17.511 and willfully discloses such confidential and privileged quality assurance record or document or information contained therein, except as authorized by 38 U.S.C. 5705 or the regulations in §§17.500 through 17.511, shall be fined not more than \$5,000 in the case

38 CFR Ch. I (7–1–10 Edition)

of a first offense and not more than \$20,000 in the case of each subsequent offense.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5705)

VA HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

AUTHORITY: 38 U.S.C. 7601–7655.

§ 17.600 Purpose.

The purpose of §§17.600 through 17.612 is to set forth the requirements for the award of scholarships under the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Professional Scholarship Program to students receiving education or training in a direct or indirect health-care services discipline to assist in providing an adequate supply of such personnel for VA and for the Nation. Disciplines include nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and other specified direct or indirect health-care disciplines if needed by VA.

[55 FR 40170, Oct. 2, 1990]

§ 17.601 Definitions.

For the purpose of these regulations:

(a) *Acceptable level of academic standing* means the level at which a student retains eligibility to continue in attendance in school under the school's standards and practices in the course of study for which the scholarship was awarded.

(b) *Act* means the Department of Veterans Affairs Health-Care Amendments of 1980, Pub. L. 96–330, (38 U.S.C. 7601–7655), as amended by Pub. L. 97–251, the Department of Veterans Affairs Health-Care Programs Improvement and Extension Act of 1982, Pub. L. 99–576, Veterans Benefits Improvement and Health Care Authorization Act of 1986, and Pub. L. 100–322, the Veterans' Benefits and Services Act of 1988.

(Authority: Pub. L. 96–330; 38 U.S.C. 7601–7655, as amended by Pub. L. 97–251; Pub. L. 99–576 and Pub. L. 100–322)

(c) *Affiliation agreement* means a Memorandum of Affiliation between a Department of Veterans Affairs health care facility and a school of medicine or osteopathy.

(d) *Advanced clinical training* means those programs of graduate training in