

Taisha C. Roberts, MD



January 19, 2017

Carolyn Lerner, JD
Special Counsel
Office of Special Counsel

Dear Counselor Lerner,

Although the result of the investigation by the OMI identified several issues with the Ralph H. Johnson VA's lab reporting and processing procedures, I disagree with one of the conclusions. The imminent danger to public health and safety should not be exclusively attributed to Nocturnist 3. Therefore, no agency suggestions and/or recommendations were made regarding these allegations because Nocturnist 3 is no longer employed at said institution. Throughout the report, the VA substantiated that there were several problems with lab reporting and processing. It went on to further state that since the allegations have been brought forth steps have been taken to improve the process, as well as monitor it more closely. Nocturnist 1 and 2 informed investigators that these steps have helped them perform and clarified their job duties. This improved process took place after alleged non response by Nocturnist 3 regarding patients A, B, and C. Furthermore, the report draws the assumption that the Lab Tech documentation in CPRS, as well as testimony regarding critical lab value reporting and read back is 100% accurate. Whereas, the same report shows evidence in delay of reporting, inaccurate reporting, and outdated policy/guidelines being followed. There is also no mention of any disciplinary actions taken against the Anesthesiologist and General Surgeon involved with patient C or reference of them posing imminent danger to patients, public safety, or health. I do not agree with release of this report as it is. It does not seem reasonable or logical to conclude that Nocturnist 3 was the sole party responsible for placing patients in imminent danger or posing a threat to public health and safety, especially in light of all the issues found throughout the investigation. It appears that when errors occur because of the agencies dysfunction, the norm has been to place blame on those who are trying to serve this unique patient population. This makes it impossible to improve the care that our nations veterans are receiving.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Taisha C. Roberts, MD".

Taisha C. Roberts, MD