



OFFICE OF  
**INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

September 22, 2023

The Honorable Michael J. Missal  
Inspector General  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
801 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Inspector General Missal:

We conducted this required external peer review in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Inspection and Evaluation Committee guidance as contained in the December 2021 CIGIE *Guide for Conducting External Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General* from April 11, 2023, through September 22, 2023.

We assessed the extent to which the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) complied with the December 2020 CIGIE *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation* (the Blue Book). Our assessment included a review of the VA OIG's internal policies and procedures<sup>1</sup> implementing the Blue Book standards. It also included a review of selected inspection and evaluation reports issued between April 1, 2022, and March 31, 2023, to determine whether the reports complied with the Blue Book standards and the VA OIG's internal policies and procedures.

### **Overall Conclusion**

We determined that the VA OIG's policies and procedures generally were consistent with the Blue Book standards addressed in the external peer review. Of the 12 reports reviewed, all generally complied with the Blue Book standards. We did not note any significant noncompliance during our review or make any recommendations.

Enclosure 2 to this report includes the response by the VA OIG to our draft report.

Sincerely,  
  
Mark Lee Greenblatt  
Inspector General

Enclosures

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<sup>1</sup> *Office of Audits and Evaluations Policy Handbook* (March 2022) and *Office of Healthcare Inspections Handbook* (January 2022).

## Scope and Methodology

We judgmentally selected 12 VA OIG reports for review to obtain a cross-section of the program and functional areas that performed project work in conformance with Blue Book standards. Of the 12 reports we reviewed, the Office of Audits and Evaluations (OAE) and the Office of Healthcare Inspections (OHI) each issued 6.

We conducted onsite visits to review OHI project files at the VA OIG's Washington, DC, and Denver, Colorado, offices in July 2023. We reviewed OAE project files remotely. We contacted VA OIG officials for clarification on policies, procedures, and project documentation. In addition, our review team held weekly status meetings with VA OIG officials throughout the peer review. The prior external peer review report did not include recommendations requiring our follow-up review.

**Figure 1. Reviewed Reports Issued by the VA OIG**

<b>Report No.</b>	<b>Report Date</b>	<b>Report Title</b>
21-03595-219	8/17/2022	<i>Failure to Communicate and Coordinate Care for a Community Living Center Resident at the VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System in California</i>
21-00797-248	9/28/2022	<i>Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program Implementation Status and Barriers to Compliance</i>
21-03311-15	11/21/2022	<i>Comprehensive Healthcare Inspection of the Mountain Home VA Healthcare System in Tennessee</i>
21-03630-250	12/8/2022	<i>Improvements Needed to Reduce Duplicate Payments by VHA and Medicare and Ensure VHA Has Authorized Community Medical Services</i>
22-01836-12	1/18/2023	<i>Inspection of Information Security at the Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics</i>
21-01711-50	1/31/2023	<i>Improvements Recommended in Visit Frequency and Contingency Planning for Emergencies in Intensive Community Mental Health Recovery Programs</i>
22-01565-29	2/2/2023	<i>Financial Efficiency Inspection of the VA Palo Alto Health Care System in California</i>
22-03770-49	2/22/2023	<i>Security and Incident Preparedness at VA Medical Facilities</i>
22-01814-36	3/9/2023	<i>VBA Did Not Ensure Complex Appeals Were Decided by Appropriate Staff</i>
22-00036-68	3/15/2023	<i>Comprehensive Healthcare Inspection of the Amarillo VA Health Care System in Texas</i>

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22-01503-65	3/16/2023	<i>Veterans Are Still Being Required to Attend Unwarranted Medical Reexaminations for Disability Benefits</i>
22-01594-86	3/30/2023	<i>Inadequate Coordination of Care for a Patient at the West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System in Florida</i>

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
INSPECTOR GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, DC 20420



August 18, 2023

The Honorable Mark Lee Greenblatt  
Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Greenblatt:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) inspections and evaluations external peer review of the Department of Veteran Affairs, Office of the Inspector General, sent to us by your office on August 17, 2023. We are pleased that the review team did not note any significant noncompliance during the review and that no recommendations were made. We are also pleased that the review found that our policies and procedures as well as the reports reviewed were consistent with CIGIE Blue Book standards.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation for the professionalism and thoroughness the team demonstrated while conducting their review. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Emigh, Quality Director, at [michelle.emigh@va.gov](mailto:michelle.emigh@va.gov) or (202) 615-1464.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL J

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MICHAEL J. MISSAL

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