requires a national certification, some States also require licensure for this profession. The standard includes information on which States offer an exemption for Federal employees and where VA will preempt State laws, if applicable.

We note that the proposed standards of practice do not contain an exhaustive list of every task and duty that each VA health care professional can perform. Rather, it is designed to highlight whether there are any areas of variance in how this profession can practice across States and how this profession will be able to practice within VA notwithstanding their State license, certification, registration, and other requirements.

Therapeutic Medical Physicists are health care professionals who are specifically educated and trained in the administration or supervision of radiation oncology. VA qualification standards require Therapeutic Medical Physicists to have an active, current, full, and unrestricted certification from the American Board of Radiology (ABR), the American Board of Medical Physics (ABMP), or the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine (CCPM). While ABMP discontinued certification in Therapeutic Medical Physics in December 2002, Therapeutic Medical Physicists who obtained a certification from ABMP prior to that date also have a Letter of Certification Equivalence by ABR. All three certifications follow the Medical Physics Practice Guidelines (MPPG) standards from the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM). VA also researched other alternative certifications and State requirements and found that four States also require a license for Therapeutic Medical Physicists. All four State licenses align with the national MPPG standards from AAPM. Therefore, there is no variance in how Therapeutic Medical Physicists practice in any State.

VA proposes to adopt a standard of practice consistent with the MPPG standard that all three certifying bodies follow; therefore, VA Therapeutic Medical Physicists will continue to follow the standard set by their national certification. The MPPG standard by AAPM can be found here: *https://www.aapm.org/pubs/MPPG/default.asp.*

Because the practice of Therapeutic Medical Physicists is not changing, there will be no impact on the practice of this occupation when this national standard of practice is implemented.

Proposed National Standard of Practice for Therapeutic Medical Physicists

Therapeutic Medical Physicists (TMPs) assure the safe and effective use of radiation in radiation oncology. TMPs perform or oversee the scientific and technical aspects of radiotherapy procedures necessary to achieve this objective. In the clinical setting, this involves the use of ionizing or nonionizing radiation in the planning and delivery of radiotherapy treatments. TMPs collaborate with radiation oncologists and monitor equipment to ensure each patient's safety.

Therapeutic Medical Physicists in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) possess the education and certification from the American Board of Radiology (ABR), the American Board of Medical Physics (ABMP), or the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine (CCPM) required by VA qualification standards, as more specifically described in VA Handbook 5005, Staffing, Part II, Appendix G48.

This national standard of practice confirms that VA Therapeutic Medical Physicists practice in accordance with the Medical Physics Practice Guidelines (MPPG) standards from the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM), available at: *https://www.aapm.org/.* As of November 2022, all three certifications from ABR, AMBP, and CCPM follow MPPG standards.

Although VA only requires a certification, four States require a State license in order to practice occupation in that State: Hawaii, Florida, New York, and Texas. As of November 2022, all four States follow the MPPG standards so there is no variance in how VA Therapeutic Medical Physicists practice in any State.

Request for Information

1. Are there any required trainings for the aforementioned practices that we should consider?
2. Are there any factors that would inhibit or delay the implementation of the aforementioned practices for VA health care professionals in any States?
3. Is there any variance in practice that we have not listed?
4. What should we consider when preempting conflicting State laws, regulations, or requirements regarding supervision of individuals working toward obtaining their license or unlicensed personnel?
5. Is there anything else you would like to share with us about this national standard of practice?

Signing Authority

Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, approved this document on February 21, 2023, and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Luvenia Potts,

Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2023–05141 Filed 3–13–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–0851]

Agency Information Collection Activity: Status of Loan Account—Foreclosure or Other Liquidation

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed revision of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before May 15, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at *www.Regulations.gov* or to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M33), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420 or email to *nancy.kessinger@va.gov.* Please refer to ''OMB Control No. 2900–0851'' in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through FDMS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maribel Aponte, Office of Enterprise and Integration, Data Governance Analytics (008), 810 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 266–4688 or email *maribel.aponte@va.gov.* Please refer to ''OMB Control No. 2900–0851'' in any correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995, Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each

collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Authority: Public Law 104–13; 44 U.S.C. 3501–3521.

Title: Status of Loan Account—Foreclosure or Other Liquidation.

OMB Control Number: 2900–0851.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA Form 26–0971 is used when requesting the repurchase of a loan. The holder of a delinquent vendee account is legally entitled to repurchase the loan by VAwhen the loan has been continuously in default for 3 months and the amount of thedelinquency equals or exceeds the sum of 2 monthly installments.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 5 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 30 minutes.

Frequency of Response: One-time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10.

By direction of the Secretary.

Maribel Aponte,

VA PRA Clearance Officer, Office of Enterprise and Integration/Data Governance Analytics, Department of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2023–05176 Filed 3–13–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Notice of Request for Information on the Department of Veterans Affairs Orthotist, Prosthetist, and Prosthetist-Orthotist Standard of Practice

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Request for information.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is requesting information to assist in developing a national standard of practice for VA Orthotists, Prosthetists, and Prosthetist-Orthotists. VA seeks comments on various topics to help inform VA's development of this national standard of practice.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 15, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be submitted through *www.regulations.gov.* Except as provided below, comments received before the close of the comment period will be available at *www.regulations.gov* for public viewing, inspection, or copying, including any personally identifiable or confidential business information that is included in a comment. We post the comments received before the close of the comment period on the following website as soon as possible after they have been received: *https://www.regulations.gov.* VA will not post on *Regulations.gov* public comments that make threats to individuals or institutions or suggest that the commenter will take actions to harm the individual. VA encourages individuals not to submit duplicative comments. We will post acceptable comments from multiple unique commenters even if the content is identical or nearly identical to other comments. Any public comment received after the comment period's closing date is considered late and will not be considered in a potential rulemaking.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ethan Kalett, Office of Regulations, Appeals and Policy (10BRAP), Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, 202–461–0500. This is not a toll-free number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

Chapters 73 and 74 of 38 U.S.C. and 38 U.S.C. 303 authorize the Secretary to regulate the professional activities of VA health care professions to make certain that VA's health care system provides safe and effective health care by qualified health care professionals to ensure the well-being of those Veterans who have borne the battle.

On November 12, 2020, VA published an interim final rule confirming that VA health care professionals may practice their health care profession consistent with the scope and requirements of their VA employment, notwithstanding any State license, registration, certification, or other requirements that unduly interfere with their practice. 38 CFR 17.419; 85 FR 71838. Specifically, this rulemaking confirmed VA's current practice of allowing VA health care professionals to deliver health care services in a State other than the health care professional's State of licensure, registration, certification, or other State requirement, thereby enhancing beneficiaries' access to critical VA health care services. The rulemaking also confirmed VA's authority to establish national standards of practice for its health care professionals which would standardize a health care professional's practice in all VA medical facilities.

The rulemaking explained that a national standard of practice describes the tasks and duties that a VA health care professional practicing in the health care profession may perform and may be permitted to undertake. Having a national standard of practice means that individuals from the same VA health care profession may provide the same type of tasks and duties regardless of the VA medical facility where they are located or the State license, registration, certification, or other State requirement they hold. We emphasized in the rulemaking and reiterate here that VA will determine, on an individual basis, that a health care professional has the necessary education, training and skills to perform the tasks and duties detailed in the national standard of practice and will only be able to perform such tasks and duties after they have been incorporated into the individual's privileges, scope of practice, or functional statement. The rulemaking explicitly did not create any such national standards and directed that all national standards of practice would be subsequently created via policy.

Need for National Standards of Practice

As the Nation's largest integrated health care system, it is critical that VA develops national standards of practice to ensure beneficiaries receive the same high-quality care regardless of where they enter the system and to ensure that VA health care professionals can efficiently meet the needs of beneficiaries when practicing within the scope of their VA employment. National standards are designed to increase beneficiaries' access to safe and effective health care, thereby improving health outcomes. The importance of this initiative has been underscored by the COVID–19 pandemic. With an increased need for mobility in our workforce, including through VA's Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System, creating a uniform standard of practice better supports VA health care professionals who already frequently practice across State lines. In addition, the development of national standards of practice aligns with VA's long-term