

## CHAPTER 3

## VISN by VISN Decisions and Implementation

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the Secretary of Veterans Affairs' decisions on specific recommendations of the CARES Commission for the individual Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN).

Arranged by VISN, each Commission recommendation is followed by the Secretary's decision and guidance. In many cases, completion dates have been included where studies or plans are called for in implementation.

To facilitate the readability of the document, many Commission recommendations were shortened, particularly in the case of those recommendations that recur throughout the document. These abbreviated decisions and those decisions that refer to cross-cutting issues are cited as references in the Secretary's decisions. In these instances, the language in the crosscutting section applies to the recommendation noted.

Major crosscutting issues cited include:

- |                                      |                               |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ▶ Critical Access Hospitals          | ▶ Contracting for Care        |
| ▶ Community-Based Outpatient Clinics | ▶ Infrastructure and Safety   |
| ▶ Mental Health Services             | ▶ Special Disability Programs |
| ▶ Long-Term Care                     | ▶ VA/DoD Sharing              |
| ▶ Excess VA Property                 | ▶ <i>OneVA</i> Collaborations |

The Secretary's subject-by-subject decision to accept the CARES Commission recommendations for each VISN and his guidance on implementation of these decisions follow.