

VAU.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**Fact Sheet**Office of Public Affairs
Media RelationsWashington, DC 20420
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www.va.gov**Patient Access Progress Update
Access Spotlight: Speech-Language Pathology Access
Release 27 – August 13, 2015****Summary**

In keeping with the commitment to improve transparency in the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) processes and in accordance with Section 206 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA), VA today released the [latest update of facility-level patient access data](#) and is highlighting notable access improvements. In this release, VA is providing one report:

1. Pending Appointments (Snapshot of Data on August 1, 2015)****Notable Improvements:***

- Between June 1, 2014, and August 1, 2015, the Electronic Wait List went from 56,000 appointments to 40,622, a 27 percent reduction.
- VA created nearly 2.7 million authorizations for Veterans to receive care in the private sector between August 1, 2014 and July 31, 2015. This represents a 26 percent increase in authorizations, when compared to the same period in previous years.

Access Spotlight: Speech-Language Pathology Access

VA offers comprehensive speech-language pathology services to Veterans and Servicemembers. VA speech-language pathologists are professionals dedicated to providing high quality, comprehensive, caring and timely services to individuals who have a wide range of communication and swallowing disorders.

- Speech-language pathology services include the early identification or screening, evaluation, and treatment for speech, swallowing, language, voice and cognitive-communication disorders.
- Services are provided based on applying the best available research evidence, using expert clinical judgment and considering the patient's individual preferences and values.
- VA employs over 400 speech-language pathologists and offers services to over 158 sites of care throughout the VA Health Care System.
- VA Speech-Language Pathology had over 356,000 patient encounters in Fiscal Year 2014.

For more information, visit www.rehab.va.gov.

*Report is created using "Wait Times Calculated Using Preferred Date," which utilizes the date a Veteran prefers to be seen or the date determined to be medically necessary by their clinical provider.