

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
Release 31 – October 8, 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 October 1, 2015)****Notable Improvements:***

1. Between June 1, 2014, and October 1, 2015, the Electronic Wait List went from 56,271 appointments to 40,956, a 27.21 percent reduction.
2. VA created nearly 2.6 million authorizations for Veterans to receive care in the private sector between October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015. This represents a 9 percent increase in authorizations, when compared to the same period in previous years.

*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.