

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT[641]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 135.24, the Department of Public Health hereby rescinds Chapter 88, “Volunteer Health Care Provider Program,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopts a new chapter with the same title.

The new chapter provides the Department the ability to provide defense and indemnification to individual volunteer health care providers within a specialty health care provider office through the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program (VHCPP). The new chapter also provides clarification in identifying the individual volunteer health care provider, protected clinic, and sponsor entity. Definitions have been added to provide further clarification regarding the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program. Speech pathologists and audiologists have been added to receive defense and indemnification through the VHCPP as individual volunteer health care providers.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the March 24, 2010, Iowa Administrative Bulletin as **ARC 8627B**. The following changes have been made since the publication of the Notice.

Prior to the public hearing, questions were raised regarding the definitions of “minor dental surgery” and “primary dental care service,” which had been proposed for transparency as this is the way the Department has interpreted these services. The Department has chosen not to adopt these definitions at this time to allow discussion with the Dental Board and the Iowa Dental Association. In turn, this change has also required that the Department not adopt the proposed change in the description of covered services for dentists in subparagraph 88.5(1)“d”(7). The language regarding covered services for dentists will remain the same as the language found in rescinded Chapter 88.

Comments were received at a public hearing that was held on Thursday, April 15, 2010. Comments pertained to the days, maximum hours, clinic sites, and patient groups that were included in rescinded Chapter 88 and have not been changed in new Chapter 88. These items are included in the VHCPP application/agreement for the specialty provider office and the individual volunteer health care provider. The VHCPP specialty health care volunteer will list all sites where services will be provided; thus, if the specialty health care providers are in a practice and have several offices where free health care services will be provided, the specialty health care providers will include all of those office locations on their application/agreement.

Due to comments received from the Iowa Collaborative Safety Net Provider Network, the definition of “Iowa specialty referral network” has been changed to “specialty care referral network.” The definition of the “specialty health care provider office” has not been changed as this is the definition that is in the Iowa Code.

There was also comment regarding the issue of minor surgical procedures. The Department has determined that this issue requires further study with the stakeholders and, in order to proceed with enrollment of specialty health care providers and specialty health care provider offices in the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program in July, the Department has adopted the rules without a change to the language regarding minor surgical procedures.

As a result of additional internal review, one additional change to the Noticed rules has been made. In rule 641—88.9(135), the word “deny” has been added in the first sentence so that the sentence reads “The VHCPP may deny, suspend, revoke, or condition the protection of an individual volunteer health care provider, protected clinic or sponsor entity for cause, including but not limited to:”

These rules were adopted by the State Board of Health on May 12, 2010.

These rules shall become effective July 7, 2010.

These rules are intended to implement 2009 Iowa Code Supplement section 135.24.

The following amendment is adopted.

Rescind 641—Chapter 88 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 88
VOLUNTEER HEALTH CARE PROVIDER PROGRAM

641—88.1(135) Purpose. The volunteer health care provider program (VHCPP) is established to defend and indemnify eligible individual volunteer health care providers and protected clinics providing free health care services as provided in Iowa Code section 135.24 and these rules.

641—88.2(135) Definitions. For the purpose of these rules, the following definitions shall apply:

“Charitable organization” means a charitable organization within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

“Defend” means that the office of the attorney general shall provide the individual volunteer health care provider and protected clinic with legal representation at no cost to the individual volunteer health care provider or protected clinic.

“Department” means the Iowa department of public health.

“Field dental clinic” means a dental clinic temporarily or periodically erected at a location where mobile dental equipment, instruments, or supplies, as necessary, are utilized to provide dental services.

“Free clinic” means a facility, other than a hospital or health care provider’s office, which is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and which has as its sole purpose the provision of health care services without charge to individuals who are otherwise unable to pay for the services.

“Health care facility” means a residential care facility, a nursing facility, an intermediate care facility for persons with mental illness, or an intermediate care facility for persons with mental retardation.

“Health care services” means services received from an individual volunteer health care provider at a protected clinic or sponsor entity, as provided in Iowa Code section 135.24 and these rules, and approved in a protection agreement or sponsor entity agreement. The agreement covers “health care services” that are volunteer, uncompensated services. For those services to qualify as volunteer, uncompensated services under this chapter, the individual volunteer health care provider, protected clinic, or sponsor entity must receive no compensation for any services provided under the agreement and must not bill or accept compensation from the person, or any public or private third-party payor, for the specific services provided by the individual volunteer health care provider covered by the agreement.

“Indemnify” means that the state of Iowa shall pay all sums that the individual volunteer health care provider or protected clinic holding a protection agreement with the VHCPP is legally obligated to pay as damages because of any claim made against the individual volunteer health care provider or protected clinic which arises out of the provision of free health care services rendered or which should have been rendered by the individual volunteer health care provider or protected clinic.

“Individual volunteer health care provider” means any one of the following health care providers who has a fully executed protection agreement with the VHCPP: an emergency medical care provider certified pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 147A; a physician licensed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 148; a physical therapist licensed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 148A; an occupational therapist licensed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 148B; a physician assistant licensed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 148C and practicing under the supervision of a physician; a podiatrist licensed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 149; a chiropractor licensed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 151; a respiratory therapist licensed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 152B; an advanced registered nurse practitioner, a licensed practical nurse or a registered nurse licensed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 152 or 152E; a dentist, dental assistant, or dental hygienist licensed or registered pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 153; an optometrist licensed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 154; a psychologist licensed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 154B; a bachelor social worker, a master social worker, or an independent social worker licensed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 154C; a marital and family therapist or mental health counselor licensed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 154D; a speech pathologist or audiologist licensed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 154F; or a pharmacist licensed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 155A.

“Protected clinic” means field dental clinic, free clinic, or specialty health care provider office providing free care to the uninsured and underinsured. Each protected clinic has a signed protection agreement, which provides for defense and indemnification of the protected clinic. The protection agreement shall allow the protected clinic to deliver health care services to uninsured and underinsured persons as an agent of the state.

“Protection agreement” means a signed contract providing for defense and indemnification between an individual volunteer health care provider or protected clinic and the volunteer health care provider program (VHCPP). This agreement shall allow the individual health care provider or protected clinic to deliver health care services to uninsured and underinsured persons as an agent of the state. The agreement covers “health care services” that are volunteer, uncompensated services. For those services to qualify as volunteer, uncompensated services under this chapter, the individual health care provider and protected clinic must receive no compensation for any services provided under the agreement and must not bill or accept compensation from the person, or any public or private third-party payor, for the specific services provided by the individual volunteer health care provider covered by the agreement.

“Specialty care referral network” means the referral network established through the Iowa Collaborative Safety Net Provider Network.

“Specialty health care provider office” means the private office or clinic of an individual specialty health care provider or a group of specialty health care providers as referred by the Iowa Collaborative Safety Net Provider Network established in Iowa Code section 135.153 but does not include a field dental clinic, a free clinic, or a hospital.

“Sponsor entity” or *“sponsor entity clinic”* means a hospital, clinic, free clinic, health care facility, health care referral program, charitable organization or field dental clinic. Each sponsor entity has a fully executed sponsor entity agreement. The sponsor entity agreement shall allow an individual volunteer health care provider to deliver health care services to uninsured and underinsured persons as an agent of the state.

“Sponsor entity agreement” means a signed contract between the VHCPP and a hospital, clinic, free clinic, health care facility, health care referral program, charitable organization, or field dental clinic allowing an individual volunteer health care provider to deliver free health care services through the VHCPP at the sponsor entity location.

“Underinsured” means that a person does not have adequate insurance, which is determined on cost-exposure to family income with at least one of three indicators: (1) out-of-pocket medical expenses equal to or greater than 10 percent of income; (2) out-of-pocket medical expenses equal to or greater than 5 percent of income if income is less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level; and (3) health plan deductibles equal to or greater than 5 percent of income.

“Volunteer health care provider program” or *“VHCPP”* means the volunteer health care provider program of the department.

641—88.3(135) Eligibility for the volunteer health care provider program.

88.3(1) *Individual volunteer health care provider eligibility.* To be eligible for protection as an employee of the state under Iowa Code chapter 669 for a claim arising from covered health care services, an individual volunteer health care provider shall satisfy each of the following conditions at the time of the act or omission allegedly resulting in injury:

a. The individual volunteer health care provider shall hold an active unrestricted license, registration, or certification to practice in Iowa under Iowa Code chapter 147A, 148, 148A, 148B, 148C, 149, 151, 152, 152B, 152E, 153, 154, 154B, 154C, 154D, 154F, or 155A. The individual volunteer health care provider shall provide a sworn statement attesting that the license, registration, or certification to practice is free of restrictions. The statement shall describe any disciplinary action that has ever been taken against the individual volunteer health care provider by any professional licensing, registering, or certifying authority or health care facility, including any voluntary surrender of license, registration, or certification or other agreement involving the individual volunteer health care provider’s license, registration, or certification to practice or any restrictions on practice, suspension of privileges, or other sanctions. The statement shall also describe any malpractice suits that have been

filed against the individual volunteer health care provider. The statement provided by a pharmacist shall also describe any disciplinary action that has ever been taken against any pharmacy in which the pharmacist has ever been owner, partner, or officer.

(1) Every physician and dentist shall authorize the release of information allowing certified statements to be sent to the board of medicine or dental board from the National Practitioner Data Bank, the Federation of State Medical Boards Disciplinary Data Bank, or State Dental Boards Disciplinary Data Bank, as appropriate, setting forth any malpractice judgment or award or disciplinary action involving the physician or dentist.

(2) Every physical therapist, occupational therapist, physician assistant, podiatrist, chiropractor, respiratory therapist, licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, advanced registered nurse practitioner, optometrist, psychologist, bachelor social worker, master social worker, independent social worker, marital and family therapist, mental health counselor, speech pathologist, and audiologist shall request certified statements directly from the National Practitioner Data Bank-Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank setting forth any malpractice judgment or award or disciplinary action involving the requester, shall pay the cost for such certified statements and shall submit such certified statements as part of the VHCPP application. Every chiropractor shall also authorize the release of information allowing certified statements to be sent to the board of chiropractic from the Chiropractic Information Network-Board Action Databank (CIN-BAD) setting forth any malpractice judgment or award or disciplinary action involving the chiropractor.

(3) Every pharmacist shall authorize the release of information allowing certified statements to be sent to the board of pharmacy from the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy setting forth any disciplinary action involving the pharmacist or any pharmacy in which the pharmacist has ever been owner, partner, or officer, and the pharmacist shall pay the cost for such certified statements. Every pharmacist shall also authorize the release of information from the pharmacist's malpractice insurance carrier to be sent to the board of pharmacy, and the pharmacist shall pay the cost for such release. Information released from the pharmacist's malpractice insurance carrier shall include the history and details of all claims that have been filed on behalf of the pharmacist or any pharmacy in which the pharmacist has ever been owner, partner, or officer, or confirmation that there have been no claims.

(4) Every emergency medical care provider shall authorize the release of information allowing information to be sent from the bureau of emergency medical services to the VHCPP setting forth any malpractice judgment or award or disciplinary action involving the requester and shall authorize the release of information allowing such information to be shared with the bureau of emergency medical services by licensing entities within and outside Iowa.

b. Application. The applicant shall submit the following information on forms provided by the VHCPP:

(1) The patients to be served;
(2) The health care services to be provided;
(3) The site where health care services are to be provided;
(4) The days and maximum number of hours when the free health care services will be provided each week at each site;

(5) The services that will be provided to those persons who are uninsured and underinsured for the public health purpose of improved health, prevention of illness/injury, and disease management.

c. Agreement. The individual volunteer health care provider shall have a signed and current protection agreement with the VHCPP which identifies the covered health care services within the respective scope of practice and conditions of defense and indemnification as provided in rules 641—88.5(135) and 641—88.6(135). The protection agreement shall:

(1) Provide that the individual volunteer health care provider shall perform only those health care services identified and approved by the VHCPP;
(2) Identify the health care services to be provided by the sponsor entity or protected clinic which has been approved by the VHCPP through an application process;
(3) Identify by category the patient groups to be served;
(4) Identify the sites at which the free health care services will be provided;

(5) Identify the maximum amount of time the free health care services will be provided by the individual volunteer health care provider at the identified sites each week;

(6) Provide that the individual volunteer health care provider shall maintain proper records of the health care services;

(7) Provide that the individual volunteer health care provider shall make no representations concerning eligibility for the VHCPP or eligibility of services for indemnification by the state except as authorized by the department;

(8) Provide that the individual volunteer health care provider shall cooperate fully with the state in the defense of any claim or suit relating to participation in the VHCPP, including attending hearings, depositions and trials and assisting in securing and giving evidence, responding to discovery and obtaining the attendance of witnesses;

(9) Provide that the individual volunteer health care provider shall accept financial responsibility for personal expenses and costs incurred in the defense of any claim or suit related to participation in the VHCPP, including travel, meals, compensation for time and lost practice, and copying costs, and agree that the state will not compensate the individual volunteer health care provider for the individual volunteer health care provider's expenses or time needed for the defense of the claim or suit;

(10) Provide that the individual volunteer health care provider shall receive no direct monetary compensation of any kind for services provided in the VHCPP;

(11) Provide that the individual volunteer health care provider shall comply with the protection agreement with the VHCPP concerning approved health care services.

88.3(2) Protected clinic eligibility. To be eligible for protection as a state agency under Iowa Code chapter 669 for a claim arising from the provision of covered health care services at a protected clinic, the protected clinic shall satisfy each of the following conditions at the time of the act or omission allegedly resulting in injury:

a. The protected clinic shall comply with subrules 88.4(1) through 88.4(5).

b. The protected clinic shall provide a list of all individual volunteer health care providers who provide health care services at the protected clinic.

c. The protected clinic shall submit proof that each individual volunteer health care provider providing health care services at the protected clinic either:

(1) Holds a current protection agreement with the VHCPP, or

(2) Holds current professional liability insurance coverage and an active unrestricted license, registration, or certification to practice in Iowa under Iowa Code chapter 147A, 148, 148A, 148B, 148C, 149, 151, 152, 152B, 152E, 153, 154, 154B, 154C, 154D, 154F, or 155A.

d. The protected clinic shall submit a list of the clinic board of directors and contact information for the board of directors.

e. The protected clinic shall submit proof of IRC Section 501(c)(3) status.

88.3(3) Sponsor entity or sponsor entity clinic. As a condition of sponsoring individual volunteer health care providers in the VHCPP, a hospital, clinic, free clinic, health care facility, health care referral program, charitable organization, or field dental clinic shall comply with subrules 88.4(1) through 88.4(5).

641—88.4(135) Sponsor entity and protected clinic.

88.4(1) Licensure. The sponsor entity or protected clinic shall be licensed to the extent required by law for the facility in question.

88.4(2) If the sponsor entity or protected clinic is a charitable organization within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, the sponsor entity or protected clinic shall provide proof of Section 501(c)(3) status to the VHCPP.

88.4(3) Application. The sponsor entity or protected clinic shall submit the following information on forms provided by the VHCPP:

a. By category, the patient groups to be served;

b. The health care services to be provided;

c. The site where free health care services are to be provided;

- d. The days and times when health care services are to be provided at each site;
- e. The services that will be provided to those persons who are uninsured and underinsured for the public health purpose of improved health, prevention of illness/injury, and disease management.

88.4(4) Agreement. A signed and current sponsor entity agreement or protected clinic agreement shall exist with the VHCPP which shall:

- a. Provide that the individual volunteer health care provider within a sponsor entity or protected clinic shall perform only those health care services identified and approved by the VHCPP;
- b. Identify by category the patient groups to be served;
- c. Identify the sites at which the free health care services will be provided;
- d. Identify the days and times when health care services are to be provided at each site;
- e. Provide that the sponsor entity or protected clinic shall maintain proper records of health care services for a period of seven years from the date of service or, in the case of a minor, for a period of one year after the minor has reached the age of majority; and
- f. Provide that the sponsor entity agrees that only the individual volunteer health care provider or protected clinic is afforded protection under Iowa Code section 135.24 and that the state assumes no obligation to the sponsor entity, its employees, officers, or agents. The sponsor entity or protected clinic shall submit a statement, which shall be submitted on forms provided by the VHCPP, attesting that the sponsor entity or protected clinic and its staff, employees and volunteers agree to:

(1) Cooperate fully with the state in the defense of any claim or suit relating to participation in the VHCPP, including attending hearings, depositions and trials and assisting in securing and giving evidence, responding to discovery and obtaining the attendance of witnesses;

(2) Accept financial responsibility for the sponsor entity's or protected clinic's expenses and costs incurred in the defense of any claim or suit related to participation in the VHCPP, including travel, meals, compensation for time and lost practice, and copying costs, and agree that the state will not compensate the sponsor entity or protected clinic for expenses or time needed for the defense of the claim or suit;

(3) Receive no direct monetary compensation of any kind for health care services provided in the sponsor entity or protected clinic;

(4) Comply with the sponsor entity agreement or protected clinic agreement with the VHCPP concerning approved health care services.

88.4(5) General liability insurance. The sponsor entity or protected clinic shall submit proof of general liability insurance for the clinic site.

641—88.5(135) Covered health care services. An individual volunteer health care provider holding a current protection agreement with the VHCPP shall be afforded the protection of an employee of the state under Iowa Code chapter 669, and a protected clinic holding a current protection agreement with the VHCPP shall be afforded protection as an agency of the state under Iowa Code chapter 669, only for claims for injury alleged to have been proximately caused by an individual volunteer health care provider's provision of covered health care services or solely on the basis of the individual volunteer health care provider's participation in the sponsor entity or protected clinic.

88.5(1) Covered health care services are only those that are:

- a. Identified in the protection agreement with the VHCPP;
- b. In compliance with these rules;
- c. Provided by or under the direct supervision of the individual volunteer health care provider;
- d. Health care services of:

(1) Advanced registered nurse practitioners for: well-child examinations; annual adult examinations; diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic conditions; health education; health maintenance; immunizations; and minor surgical procedures.

(2) Audiologists for: testing, measurement and evaluation related to hearing and hearing disorders and associated communication disorders for the purpose of nonmedically identifying, preventing, modifying or remediating such disorders and conditions including the determination and use of appropriate amplification; patient instruction/counseling; patient habilitation/rehabilitation; and referrals.

(3) Bachelor social workers for: psychosocial assessment and intervention through direct contact with clients; referral to other qualified resources for assistance; performance of social histories; problem identification; establishment of goals and monitoring of progress; interviewing techniques; counseling; social work administration; supervision; evaluation; interdisciplinary consultation and collaboration; and research of service delivery, including development and implementation of organizational policies and procedures in program management.

(4) Chiropractors for: examinations; diagnosis and treatment; health education; and health maintenance.

(5) Dental assistants for: intraoral services; extraoral services; infection control; radiography; and removal of plaque or stain by toothbrush, floss, or rubber cup coronal polish.

(6) Dental hygienists for: assessments and screenings; health education; health maintenance; and preventive services (cleaning, X-rays, sealants, fluoride treatments, fluoride varnish).

(7) Dentists for: dental examinations; diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic conditions; health education; health maintenance; and minor surgical procedures.

(8) Emergency medical care providers for: airway/ventilation/oxygenation; assisted medications - patient's; cardiovascular/circulation; immobilization; IV initiation/maintenance/fluids; and medication administration - routes.

(9) Independent social workers for: psychosocial assessment, diagnosis, and treatment; performance of psychosocial histories; problem identification; evaluation of symptoms and behavior; assessment of psychosocial and behavioral strengths and weaknesses and effects of the environment on behavior; psychosocial therapy; differential treatment planning; and interdisciplinary consultation.

(10) Licensed practical nurses for: supportive or restorative care.

(11) Marital and family therapists for: marital and family therapy; and application of counseling techniques in the assessment and resolution of emotional conditions.

(12) Master social workers for: psychosocial assessment, diagnosis, and treatment; performance of psychosocial histories; problem identification; evaluation of symptoms and behavior; assessment of psychosocial and behavioral strengths and weaknesses and effects of the environment on behavior; psychosocial therapy; differential treatment planning; and interdisciplinary consultation.

(13) Mental health counselors for: mental health counseling; and counseling services involving assessment, referral and consultation.

(14) Occupational therapists for: evaluation and treatment of problems interfering with functional performance in persons impaired by physical illness or injury, emotional disorder, congenital or developmental disability or the aging process.

(15) Pharmacists for: drug dispensing; patient counseling; health screenings and education; and immunizations.

(16) Physical therapists for: interpretation of performance, tests, and measurements; evaluation and treatment of human capabilities and impairments; use of physical agents, therapeutic exercises, and rehabilitative procedures to prevent, correct, minimize, or alleviate a physical impairment; establishment and modification of physical therapy program, treatment planning, and patient instruction/education.

(17) Physicians and physician assistants for: well-child examinations; annual adult examinations; diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic conditions; health education; health maintenance; immunizations; and minor surgical procedures.

(18) Psychologists for: counseling and the use of psychological remedial measures for persons with adjustment or emotional problems.

(19) Optometrists for: examinations; diagnosis and treatment of the human eye and adnexa; health education; and health maintenance.

(20) Podiatrists for: examinations; diagnosis and treatment; health education; health maintenance; and minor surgical procedures.

(21) Registered nurses for: well-child examinations; annual adult examinations; treatment of acute and chronic conditions; health education; health maintenance; and immunizations.

(22) Respiratory therapists for: diagnostic and therapeutic use of administration of medical gases, aerosols, and humidification, not including general anesthesia; pharmacologic agents relating to

respiratory care procedures; bronchopulmonary hygiene; specific diagnostic and testing techniques employed in the medical management of patients to assist in diagnosis, monitoring, treatment, and research of cardiopulmonary abnormalities; and pulmonary function testing.

(23) Speech pathologists for: testing, measurement and evaluation related to the development and disorders of speech, fluency, voice or language for the purpose of nonmedically preventing, ameliorating, modifying or remediating such disorders and conditions; patient instruction/counseling; patient habilitation/rehabilitation; and referrals.

88.5(2) Experimental procedures or procedures and treatments which lack sufficient evidence of clinical effectiveness are excluded from the VHCPP.

88.5(3) Patient referral to a specialty health care provider office shall be made solely by the specialty care referral network.

641—88.6(135) Defense and indemnification. The state shall defend and indemnify an individual volunteer health care provider or a protected clinic for a claim arising from the VHCPP only to the extent provided by Iowa Code chapter 669 and Iowa Code section 135.24. Persons or entities other than the participating individual volunteer health care provider or protected clinic are not considered state employees or state agencies under Iowa Code chapter 669. Defense and indemnification of the individual volunteer health care provider or a protected clinic under Iowa Code chapter 669 and Iowa Code section 135.24 shall occur only if all of the following requirements are met:

88.6(1) The claim involves injury alleged to have been proximately caused by health care services which were identified and approved in the protection agreement with the VHCPP and then only to the extent the health care services were provided by or under the direct supervision of the individual volunteer health care provider, including claims based on negligent delegation of health care, or the individual volunteer health care provider is named as a defendant solely because of the individual volunteer health care provider's participation in the protected clinic or sponsor entity clinic.

88.6(2) The claim arises from covered health care services that were performed at a site identified and approved in the protection agreement with the VHCPP.

88.6(3) The claim arises from covered health care services provided through a protected clinic or sponsor entity clinic identified and approved in the individual volunteer health care provider's protection agreement with the VHCPP and which meets the requirements of rule 641—88.3(135).

88.6(4) The individual volunteer health care provider, protected clinic, or sponsor entity clinic that provided the health care services receives no direct monetary compensation of any kind and no promise to pay compensation for the health care services which allegedly resulted in injury.

88.6(5) The health care services are provided to a patient who is a member of a patient group identified in the protection agreement with the VHCPP.

88.6(6) The individual volunteer health care provider, protected clinic, or sponsor entity clinic is eligible and registered as provided in rule 641—88.3(135) or the care is provided by an individual volunteer health care provider who holds current professional liability insurance coverage and an active unrestricted license to practice in Iowa under Iowa Code chapter 147A, 148, 148A, 148B, 148C, 149, 151, 152, 152B, 152E, 153, 154, 154B, 154C, 154D, 154F, or 155A and has been approved by the VHCPP.

641—88.7(135) Term of agreement.

88.7(1) *Individual volunteer health care provider.* The protection agreement with the VHCPP shall expire two years from the date of execution. Individual volunteer health care providers may apply for renewal by filing an application at least 30 days prior to expiration of the protection agreement.

88.7(2) *Protected clinic.* The protection agreement with the VHCPP shall expire two years from the date of execution. The protected clinic may apply for renewal by filing an application at least 30 days prior to expiration of the protection agreement.

88.7(3) *Sponsor entity.* The sponsor entity agreement with the VHCPP shall expire two years from the date of execution. Sponsor entities may apply for renewal by filing an application at least 30 days prior to expiration of the sponsor entity agreement.

641—88.8(135) Reporting requirements and duties.

88.8(1) Upon obtaining knowledge or becoming aware of any injury allegedly arising out of the negligent rendering of, or the negligent failure to render, covered health care services under the VHCPP, a participating individual volunteer health care provider, protected clinic, or sponsor entity shall provide to the VHCPP, as soon as practicable, written notice containing, to the extent obtainable, the circumstance of the alleged injury, the names and addresses of the injured, and any other relevant information.

88.8(2) Upon obtaining knowledge or becoming aware of an injury as defined in subrule 88.8(1), the participating protected clinic or sponsor entity shall promptly take all reasonable steps to prevent further or other injury from arising out of the same or similar incidents, situations or conditions.

88.8(3) A participating individual volunteer health care provider, protected clinic, or sponsor entity shall immediately notify the Iowa Department of Justice, Special Litigation Division, Hoover State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, of service or receipt of an original notice, petition, suit or claim seeking damages from the individual volunteer health care provider, protected clinic or sponsor entity related to participation in the VHCPP.

641—88.9(135) Revocation of agreement. The VHCPP may deny, suspend, revoke, or condition the protection of an individual volunteer health care provider, protected clinic or sponsor entity for cause, including but not limited to:

1. Failure to comply with the protection agreement or sponsor entity agreement with the VHCPP.
2. Violation of state law governing the respective scope of practice or other law governing the health care services provided under the VHCPP.
3. Making false, misleading, or fraudulent statements in connection with the VHCPP, including determination of eligibility of the individual volunteer health care provider, protected clinic, or sponsor entity or handling of a claim against the individual volunteer health care provider, protected clinic, sponsor entity or the state.
4. Evidence of substance abuse or intoxication affecting the provision of health care services under the VHCPP.
5. Reasonable grounds to believe that the individual volunteer health care provider may have provided incompetent or inadequate care to a patient under the VHCPP or is likely to do so.
6. Reasonable grounds to believe that the individual volunteer health care provider's, protected clinic's, or sponsor entity's participation in the VHCPP may expose the state to undue risk.
7. Failure to immediately notify the VHCPP of any disciplinary action brought against the individual volunteer health care provider by the applicable state licensing board.

641—88.10(135) Procedure for revocation of agreement. A proceeding for revocation of an individual volunteer health care provider's protection agreement or a protected clinic's protection agreement or a sponsor entity's agreement for participation shall be conducted as a contested case proceeding pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 17A and 641—Chapter 173. Iowa Code section 17A.18 does not preclude emergency summary suspension of a protection agreement or a sponsor entity agreement. The VHCPP shall immediately notify the appropriate licensing board and the appropriate protected clinic or sponsor entity of revocation of an individual volunteer health care provider's protection agreement.

641—88.11(135) Effect of suspension or revocation. If the VHCPP suspends or revokes an individual volunteer health care provider's protection agreement, sponsor entity agreement, or protected clinic's protection agreement, the action shall suspend or revoke future protection but shall not negate defense and indemnification coverage for covered acts or omissions which occurred during the effective dates of the protection agreement.

641—88.12(135) Protection denied.

88.12(1) *Protection denied—appeal procedure.* An applicant who has been denied protection by the VHCPP may appeal the denial and request a hearing on the issues related to the denial by serving a notice

of the appeal and request for hearing to the Director, Iowa Department of Public Health, Lucas State Office Building, 321 E. 12th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075, in writing, not more than 30 days following the date of the mailing of the notification of protection denial to the applicant or not more than 30 days following the date upon which the applicant was served notice if notification was made in the manner of service of an original notice. The request for hearing shall specifically delineate the facts to be contested and determined at the hearing.

88.12(2) Protection denied—hearing. If an applicant who has been denied protection by the VHCPP appeals the protection denial and requests a hearing pursuant to subrule 88.12(1), the hearing and subsequent procedures shall be conducted pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 17A and 641—Chapter 173.

641—88.13(135) Board notice of disciplinary action. The applicable state licensing board shall notify the VHCPP of the initiation of a contested case against a protected individual volunteer health care provider or the imposition of disciplinary action, including providing copies of any contested case decision or settlement agreement with the protected individual volunteer health care provider upon request of the VHCPP.

641—88.14(135) Effect of eligibility protection. A fully executed protection agreement of an individual volunteer health care provider or protected clinic as eligible for participation in the VHCPP by the applicable state licensing board and the department is solely a determination that the state will defend and indemnify the individual volunteer health care provider or the protected clinic to the extent provided by Iowa Code section 135.24 and these rules. The protection is not an approval or indication of ability or competence and may not be represented as such. The protected clinic or sponsor entity through which the individual volunteer health care provider provides free health care services shall retain responsibility for determining that health care personnel are competent and capable of adequately performing the health care services to be provided.

641—88.15(135) Reporting by a protected clinic or sponsor entity. A reporting form will be provided by the VHCPP to the participating protected clinic or sponsor entity at the time the protected clinic or sponsor entity agreement is approved by the VHCPP. Within 60 days following each calendar quarter, the protected clinic or sponsor entity shall provide a report to the VHCPP. At a minimum, the report shall include the number of clinic patients receiving free health care services and patient demographics by age, ethnicity, and insurance status.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 135.24.

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