

## **VA OIG Podcast Transcript 20180503-14**

OIG Highlights April 2018

May 2018

[William Chirinos] This is Assistant Special Agent in Charge William Chirinos, with the VA Office of Inspector General in Washington, D.C. Here are the April highlights.

The OIG welcomed David Case as the new Deputy Inspector General. Mr. Case will direct the work of the OIG's nationwide staff of auditors, investigators, inspectors, and support personnel in our mission to provide effective oversight to the VA's programs and operations. Prior to joining the OIG he was a managing partner at the global law firm of K&L Gates. Mr. Case served in the Marine Corps as a Judge Advocate. He has also played a leading role on the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program, ensuring that veterans receive appropriate legal representation.

Also in April the OIG published two oversight reports: The first report detailed the results of an inspection that assessed whether VA providers established androgen deficiency—that is, low levels of male hormones, particularly testosterone, needed for good health—prior to conducting testosterone replacement therapy and then completed follow-up evaluations in male patients.

The second was an audit report that evaluated VA's implementation of information security and risk management programs required by the Federal Information Security Modernization Act (or FISMA). Although VA has made progress developing and documenting policies and procedures, the report identified continuing significant deficiencies and provided 29 recommendations for improving VA's information security program.

The OIG continues to prioritize the prevention and detection of fraud within VA's education benefits programs. The OIG's criminal investigations division, working jointly with the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's for the Office of the District of Columbia, recently received guilty pleas in an education benefits fraud case they investigated. The owner and the financial manager of a privately owned and non-accredited school specializing in information technology courses both

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pled guilty in separate hearings to a \$2 million scheme. The owner of Atius Technology Institute bribed a public official at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to facilitate over \$2 million in payments that were supposed to be dedicated to providing vocational training for military veterans with service-connected disabilities.

For more information on these and other OIG activities, or to report waste, abuse, mismanagement, fraud, or other possible criminal activity, visit the OIG website at V-A dot G-O-V backslash O-I-G.