

Requested from: The Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS)

Affiliation: Americans for Prosperity Foundation

What: Requesting the following: “ Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (“FOIA”), AFPP hereby requests access to the following categories of records concerning operation of the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System.³ The time period for all items of this request is January 1, 2020 to the present. Please note: to the extent an item of this request seeks data (i.e., Items 1–7 and 9), please provide records reflecting that data on a monthly basis (e.g., total number of scheduled appointments for each month of the requested time period). If month-by-month data is unavailable, please provide the requested data in the aggregate or in the form otherwise maintained by the agency. If responsive records are kept in a CSV or Excel format, please produce the records in their native format.

1. Records reflecting the total number of appointments scheduled. **Note: See attached “Completed Appts w Wait Time” spreadsheet.**
2. Records reflecting the total number of appointments completed. **Note: See attached “Completed Appts w Wait Time” spreadsheet.**
3. Records reflecting the total number of appointments cancelled:
 - a. By a VA health care provider; and **Note: See attached “Cancelled Appointments – National Summary” spreadsheet.**
 - b. By a patient. **Note: See attached “Cancelled Appointments – National Summary” spreadsheet.**
4. Records reflecting the total number and percentage of appointments for primary care, mental health care, or non-institutional extended care services scheduled:
 - a. Within 20 days of a patient’s date of request; and **Note: See attached “Completed Appts w Wait Time” spreadsheet.**
 - b. Over 20 days of a patient’s date of request. **Note: See attached “Completed Appts w Wait Time” spreadsheet.**
5. Records reflecting the total number and percentage of appointments for specialty care scheduled:
 - a. Within 28 days of a patient’s date of request; and **Note: See attached “Completed Appts w Wait Time” spreadsheet.**
 - b. Over 28 days of a patient’s date of request. **Note: See attached “Completed Appts w Wait Time” spreadsheet.**
6. Records reflecting the total number of patients who, in consultation with a VA health care provider, agreed to schedule an appointment outside the 20-/28-day period established by the VCCP designated access standards. **Note: Generally, patients talk to a Medical Support Assistant (MSA) about whether they agree to go to the community; an MSA is not a healthcare provider and there is no data available.**

7. Records reflecting the total number of patients who refused to schedule an appointment outside the 20-/28-day period established by the VCCP designated access standards. **Note: No data available.**
8. All records reflecting the policies and practices for documenting whether a patient agrees or refuses to schedule an appointment outside the 20-/28-day period established by the VCCP designated access standards. This item would include, for example, any blank, standardized form(s) for memorializing such patient consent. **Note: See attached RCI Guidebook.**
9. Records reflecting the total number and percentage of patients:
 - a. Eligible for community care under the VCCP; **Note: No responsive documents, as 100% of patients are eligible for community care under the VCCP.**
 - b. Who have elected to receive community care under the VCCP; **Note: See attached “Consults - Timeliness by Primary Request Type” spreadsheet.**
 - c. Who have declined to receive community care under the VCCP. **Note: SAVAHCS does not specifically track patients that declined to receive community care under the VCCP. However, one may interpret this to mean the number of patients scheduled outside of the 20/28 day timeframe. If that is the case, this can be extrapolated from the attached “Completed appointment w/ wait time” spread sheet, which shows the number of patients scheduled in-house within the approved wait-time standard.**
10. All guidance documents, legal opinions, administrative orders, directives, policy statements, or communications exchanged between the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System and the Veterans Health Administration, VA Office of General Counsel, VA Office of the Secretary, White House Office of Management and Budget, or White House Domestic Policy Council concerning:
 - a. Interpretation of the VCCP regulations and designated access standards, including the agency’s method for calculating wait times (e.g., discussion of the difference between “date of request,” “patient preferred date,” and “clinically indicated date”); **Note: See attached RCI Guidebook.**
 - b. The process by which the VA obtains patient consent to schedule an appointment outside the 20-/28-period established by the VCCP designated access standards; **Note: See attached RCI Guidebook.**
 - c. Limiting or dissuading veterans from using community care; and **Note: No data available.**
 - d. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on administration of the VCCP.” **Note: No data available.**