Report: VA Has Addressed Endoscopic Safety Failures After HIV Mishap

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Recent inspections of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities show that the agency has responded to endoscopic procedure safety issues that have potentially exposed thousands of veterans to HIV and other blood-borne infections, The Associated Press reports.

Earlier this year, about 10,000 veterans from VA hospitals in Augusta, Georgia; Miami; and Murfreesboro, Tennessee, were told that they might have been exposed to infections during colonoscopies and endoscopic procedures performed with improperly cleaned equipment.

Following that incident, more than 50 patients tested positive for blood-borne infections, including at least eight who tested positive for HIV.

According to a report by the VA's inspector general, the agency made a surprise visit to 128 medical facilities and found that all but one had properly trained their staff to use the equipment.

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