



Department of Veterans Affairs
VA Midwest Health Care Network
Veterans Integrated Service Network 23

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4/15/14

FOIA Request No.: **15-00133-F**

Mark Brunswick, Staff Writer
Star Tribune
425 Portland Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55488-0002

Dear Mr. Brunswick:

This letter is in regard to your recent inquiry related to the initial agency decision letter in response to your request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Midwest Health Care Network (VISN 23) requesting "updated data to my request from the period of your last response through the present regarding drug prescriptions at the Minneapolis, Fargo, and St. Cloud VA hospitals".

Your recent inquiry, dated 4/14/15, indicates you are in the process of finalizing reporting on how VA is addressing opioid prescriptions and noticed a "blip in the figures, particularly related to oxycodone." You further state your data people are asking you to check back to the original source to make sure you are confident in the figures. You requested that I check back on the "original data to make sure there wasn't a typo." Your communication also references several other documents/reports that were not provided through this FOIA request. You note your observation of some data discrepancies and wonder if anyone can explain the discrepancies.

I consulted the record owner that supplied the records to your FOIA request. The data provided in response to your FOIA Request 12-02770-F and 15-00133-F is validated to be an accurate accounting of 30-day prescriptions dispensed at Fargo, Minneapolis, and St. Cloud for the timelines identified in each request.

The FOIA establishes a process to provide records in the possession of agencies and departments of the executive branch of the U.S. Government to the people. The FOIA does not include a provision to analyze data as outlined in your most recent correspondence. You may submit a new request under the FOIA that would outline specific questions or agency records that may be available for release under the law. You may also consider contacting the respective facility Public Affairs Officer for assistance in addressing your additional questions regarding the facility-specific VA data.

Sincerely,



Sheryl Kittelson, MA
VISN 23 FOIA Officer (B10-106)
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St. Cloud, MN 56303
(320-6540-7605)