



# Department of Veterans Affairs

## Office of Inspector General

August 20, 2015

### A Statement from the VA Deputy Inspector General

*VA Deputy Inspector General Announces Selections for Chief of Staff for Healthcare Oversight Integration and Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations*

Washington, DC - For a number of years the demand for collaborative oversight projects between the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) Offices of Investigations, Audits and Evaluations, and Healthcare Inspections has continued to grow, and in particular congressional requests involving complex and overlapping clinical and management issues affecting the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Access to care, wait times, nurse and physician staffing standards, disability compensation examinations and ratings, non-VA and contracted care, and the new *Veterans Choice Act*, to name just a few, are issues that require a multi-disciplinary approach. To help me plan, manage, and integrate the OIG's health care oversight, I have established a new senior executive position, Chief of Staff for Healthcare Oversight Integration, within the Immediate Office of the Inspector General to ensure effective collaboration across all OIG organizational elements on such projects. This position will function much like a Chief of Staff in one of VA's medical centers with responsibility for coordinating and integrating all of the OIG's oversight work related to VHA health care, and provide expert clinical advice directly to me on all OIG reviews and reports related to health care.

I have selected Dr. Andrea C. Buck to fill this new role. Dr. Buck, who is both a medical professional and an attorney, was appointed to the OIG in July 2014 as a Senior Physician, following assignments at the Senior Executive Service level as the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) OIG's Assistant Inspector General for the Office of Evaluations and Inspections and as VHA's Chief Medical Officer for Clinical Operations/National Director of Medicine. In addition to her executive, oversight, and clinical expertise, Dr. Buck brings an in-depth understanding of the inner workings of Congress, having served on two occasions as a detailee to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Senate Special Committee on Aging where she drafted legislation, conducted oversight of HHS and VA health care programs, and coordinated congressional hearings. She received her Doctor of Medicine degree from the Mercer University School of Medicine in Macon, Georgia, where she also received Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees in biology and political science. Dr. Buck received a Juris Doctor degree from the Washington and Lee University School of Law

in Lexington, Virginia. She is board certified in internal medicine and a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

Larry Reinkemeyer will be the OIG's next Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations. Mr. Reinkemeyer is currently the OIG's Director of the Kansas City Audit Operations Division and has 32-years of Federal auditing experience, including 18 years with the U.S. Army Audit Agency and 14 years in leadership positions with the VA OIG. Since 2007, his division has identified \$4 billion in projected monetary benefits and has earned recognition as a center of audit excellence for one of VA's core mission area—access to care—based on nearly 10 years of reporting on this issue. He is a Certified Public Accountant and a member of the Association for Advancing Government Accountability. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting degree from Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri, and a Master of Public Administration degree from Troy State University, Troy, Alabama.

It is an exciting time to be a part of the OIG as the organization grows and changes to provide even better support to VA to help it deliver on America's promises to our veterans. Dr. Buck and Mr. Reinkemeyer will play critical roles enhancing the OIG's capabilities to better meet our oversight mission.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Linda A. Halliday". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the page.