

## **News Release**

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## VA Launches Physician Ambassador Program

Department partners with volunteer medical professionals to improve care and services for Veterans

**WASHINGTON** — The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that it has launched the <u>Physician Ambassador Program</u>, an effort to recruit volunteer medical providers, at the more than 1,700 VA health-care facilities across the nation.

The physician and clinician "ambassadors" are qualified, trained and licensed health providers who will meet the same requirements as VA professionals in terms of credentials, supervision and evaluation.

"Our Veterans deserve the highest quality of care — at all times," said <u>Dr. Poonam L. Alaigh.</u> VA's Acting Under Secretary for Health. "The Physician Ambassador Program is one of the many ways we are working to keep and honor our promise to care for Veterans and their families. Working with the health-care teams and staff in our VA facilities, these incredibly skilled and qualified volunteer physicians and clinicians will improve our ability to deliver great care and service."

The Physician Ambassador Program will enhance access to urgent care, rural health care and emergency medicine for Veterans. In addition, the program will create stronger collaboration and allow both VA and community health providers to benefit from the sharing of best practices and experiences.

Physicians or health-care providers interested in volunteering as a part of the Physician Ambassador Program should contact their <u>local VA</u> medical center.