



## Department of Veterans Affairs

Washington, D.C.

### **Jonathan B. Perlin, M.D., Ph.D., MSHA, FACP**

Dr. Jonathan B. Perlin was nominated by President George W. Bush to serve as Under Secretary for Health in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on Feb. 18, 2005, and confirmed by the Senate on April 28, 2005. He previously served as Acting Under Secretary for Health since April 6, 2004. As the Chief Executive Officer of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Dr. Perlin leads the nation's largest integrated health system.

With more than 7.6 million veterans enrolled, VHA provides health care to more than 5.3 million patients annually throughout the United States. VHA operates with a medical care budget of more than \$30 billion and directly employs nearly 200,000 health care professionals at more than 1,300 sites of care, including hospitals, community and facility-based clinics, nursing homes, domiciliaries, readjustment counseling centers, and various other facilities.

VHA is recognized as a leader in clinical informatics and performance improvement, and setting national benchmarks in patient satisfaction and for 18 indicators of quality in disease prevention and treatment. In addition to its medical care mission, VHA is the nation's largest provider of graduate medical education and a major contributor to medical and scientific research. More than 150,000 volunteers, 90,000 health professions trainees, and 25,000 affiliated medical faculty are also an integral part of the VHA community.

As Under Secretary for Health, Dr. Perlin has been an active member of several health care commissions and boards. In September 2005, he was named a commissioner to the American Health Information Community, chartered by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to help realize the president's goal of making electronic health records available to most Americans within 10 years. Dr. Perlin was recently elected president of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, which includes the medical departments from the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Public Health Service and VA. In addition, Dr. Perlin is a government liaison member to the board of directors of the National Quality Forum.

Dr. Perlin served as Deputy Under Secretary for Health from July 2002 to April 2004. From December 2003 to July 2004, he simultaneously served as VHA's Acting Chief Research and Development Officer, directing a \$1.7 billion research program specializing in basic, clinical, rehabilitation and health services research.

Dr. Perlin was VHA's Chief Quality and Performance Officer from 1999 to 2002. In that role, he was responsible for supporting quality improvement and performance management. VA is one of two federal agencies recognized twice by Congress for "managing for results." VHA's Quality and Performance program has been specifically recognized by the Innovations in American Government and the RIT-USA Today Quality Cup Programs.



**Under Secretary  
for Health**

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Dr. Perlin's background includes health care quality management, health information technology, medical education, medical education, and health services research. Prior to joining VHA, Dr. Perlin served as medical director for Quality Improvement at the Medical College of Virginia Hospitals – Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Health System. At VCU, he helped establish the Health Services Research Fellowship in the Division of Quality Health Care, Department of Internal Medicine, and was associate director of the Internal Medicine Residency Training Program. Dr. Perlin is broadly published and maintains an academic appointment as adjunct associate professor of medicine and professor of health administration at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Dr. Perlin held previous appointments at the Richmond VA Medical Center, where he led in the development and implementation of the "Firm (group practice) System" and served as a firm director. He was the inaugural chief of the Telemedicine Section and developed an interstate network for providing clinical consultation as well as distributed education and administration.

A Fellow of the American College of Physicians, Dr. Perlin has a master's of science in health administration. He received his Ph.D. in pharmacology and toxicology (performing research in molecular neurobiology) with his M.D. as part of the Medical Scientist Training Program at Virginia Commonwealth University's Medical College of Virginia Campus.

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