



James Tuchschiidt, M.D., M.M. Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health

James Tuchschiidt, M.D., was named Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health, in the Department of Veterans Affairs on May 25, 2014. He leads clinical policies and programs for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), the United States' largest integrated health care system. VHA is also the Nation's largest provider of graduate medical education and a major contributor to medical and scientific research.



Previously, Dr. Tuchschiidt was the Director, Office of Strategic Integration at VA Central Office, Washington, DC. In this role, he was responsible for leading VHA's transformation efforts. Prior to this, he served as the Director of the Portland VA Medical Center May 14, 1998 until August 2009. Prior to joining the VA in 1993, he was the Director of Critical Care for the Department of Medicine at LAC/USC Medical Center and subsequently worked for Sutter Health in northern California.

Dr. Tuchschiidt started his VA career as the Chief, Medical Service at the North Chicago VA Medical Center where he played a major role in reorganizing the medical center to be more efficient and patient centered. This work was recognized with an award from the American College of Physician Executives. He relocated to the Northwest in 1996 to serve as the Chief Medical Officer for VISN20.

As a key leader in VA, Dr. Tuchschiidt has made many contributions. He played a significant role in VA's shift to Veterans Integrated Service Networks, as a member of the VISN Activation Work Group. Additionally, he has served on various workgroups that helped design of VA's regional network structures, the development of VHA's performance management strategy, and he has been a long-standing member of VHA's Finance Committee. He recently co-chaired the Universal Services Task Force, a group charged by the Under Secretary for Health to lay out a road map for transforming VA healthcare for the 21st Century.

Dr. Tuchschiidt is board certified in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Disease, and Critical Care Medicine. He has a Master's in Management, having graduated Summa Cum Laude from Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management.