

Patricia M. Hayes, Ph.D
Chief Officer, Women's Health
Department of Veterans Affairs



Dr. Patricia Hayes is the Chief Officer, Women's Health, Veterans Health Administration. The Office of Women's Health reports directly to the Under Secretary of Health. In this role, Dr. Hayes oversees the delivery and quality of health care for women Veterans throughout VA systems.

Starting with her appointment as the Chief Consultant, Women's Health Services in 2007, she set the goal of changing the VA's language, practice and culture to be more inclusive of women. Under her leadership, the number of women using VHA healthcare has more than tripled to over 550,000 today, and the total number of women accessing all VA services each year is now over one million.

She has successfully worked across VHA to expand initiatives for women Veterans' health care into a broad range of areas of importance, including cardiac health, reproductive health and birth defect prevention, infertility, and a comprehensive evaluation of care provision to women Veterans.

She chairs the new Under Secretary for Health Women Veterans Modernization Team, an effort to spur the enhancement of services for women Veterans. She is also a member of the VHA steering committee on Health Equity. In addition, she has initiated culture –change campaigns to improve recognition and respect for women Veterans, and to Stop Harassment of any Veteran or employee.