



## Department of Veterans Affairs Senior Executive Biography



### **Mark T. Upton, MD, FACP** **Deputy to the Deputy Under Secretary for Health** **Veterans Health Administration**

Dr. Upton is the Deputy to the Deputy Under Secretary for Health (DUSH) in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) as well as a practicing VA physician. He is board-certified in internal medicine and has additional expertise in patient safety, risk management, and healthcare quality improvement. He received his bachelor's degree from Gannon University, obtained his medical degree from The University of Toledo College of Medicine, and completed his residency training at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania where he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania's Healthcare Quality & Leadership residency track. He is also a graduate of the VA Chief Resident in Quality and Patient Safety (CRQS) program.

Prior to this role, Dr. Upton performed the duties of Acting DUSH and later Acting Deputy to the DUSH. In his current role, he serves as an integral member of VHA's senior leadership team and directly supports VA's efforts to provide high-quality and safe care across the VA system. He also continues to provide care to Veterans as a practicing healthcare provider.

Dr. Upton previously served in escalating leadership roles in VHA's Office of Community Care, culminating in serving as Acting Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Community Care, where he helped lead VA's efforts to develop and operate a high-performing network of community providers that meets the needs of our nation's Veterans and beneficiaries. He oversaw provider network development, VA's contracts with third-party administrators, VA's processing of community medical claims, revenue collection, and monitoring of quality and patient safety in VA's community care programs.

Prior to joining VHA Central Office, Dr. Upton served as a Patient Safety Officer at the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center (CMCVAMC) in Philadelphia, PA where he led patient safety and quality improvement efforts across the hospital. While in Philadelphia, Dr. Upton was also faculty at the Perelman School of Medicine (University of Pennsylvania) where he taught and mentored internal medicine residents, medical students, and fellows.

Dr. Upton is a fellow of the American College of Physicians as well as a member of the Society of Hospital Medicine and the American College of Healthcare Executives. He is also a member of the National Academy of Medicine's Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-being and Resilience and serves at the executive sponsor of VHA's Reduce Employee Burnout and Optimizing Organizational Thriving (REBOOT) taskforce.

#### **CAREER CHRONOLOGY:**

2022 – Present	Deputy to the Deputy Under Secretary for Health
2021 – 2022	Performed Duties of the Deputy Under Secretary for Health
2020 – 2021	Acting Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Community Care
2018 – 2020	Deputy to the Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Community Care
2017 – 2018	Executive Director, Performance Improvement & Reporting
2015 – 2017	Patient Safety Officer, CMCVAMC, Philadelphia, PA
2015 – Present	Staff Physician, Hospitalist, CMCVAMC, Philadelphia, PA

#### **EDUCATION:**

2014 – 2015	Chief Resident, Quality and Patient Safety, (CMCVAMC), Philadelphia, PA
2011 – 2014	Resident, Internal Medicine, Hospital of the University of PA, Philadelphia, PA
2011	Medical Doctor, University of Toledo College of Medicine, Toledo, OH
2007	Bachelors of Science, Gannon University, Erie, PA