VA to Host Media Roundtable to Demonstrate New ‘Access’ Website that Improves Transparency of Wait Times for Veteran Patients

WHAT
The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is hosting a media roundtable to demonstrate a new tool that will help Veterans make informed decisions about where they receive their health care. The new VA access tool website will also take VA to a new level of data transparency by allowing Veterans to fully understand how their VA facility rates in terms of access and quality of care. Healthcare performance, access and quality data can be complex. This new website will allow Veterans access to easy-to-use and easy-to-understand data about their VA medical centers. Veterans will be able to: see patient-wait-times in their local areas; offer and read information about Veterans’ experiences scheduling primary and specialty care; review timeliness of appointments for care needed right away; and obtain information about the quality of health care delivered at VA medical centers, compared with local private-sector hospitals. Access is just one of several steps VA is undertaking to help restore and maintain Veterans’ trust and confidence in VA. VA manages the nation’s largest health care system, which has an annual budget of approximately $61 billion and oversees the delivery of care to more than 9 million enrolled Veterans.

WHO
Dr. Poonam Alaigh, acting Under Secretary for Health, and Dr. Shereef Elnahal, assistant deputy Under Secretary for Quality, Safety and Value, will discuss the new access tool and demonstrate how it will improve Veteran’s ability to assess VA medical centers.

WHEN
1 p.m. Wednesday, April 12, 2017.

WHERE
The access tool demonstration will be conducted by phone via the new website: http://www.accesstocare.va.gov/
Dial-in: 1-800-767-1750; code: 14371#
(Please note, you must press the # sign after the code to join the call, and this is a listen-only call.)

ADDITIONAL DETAILS
Media who call into the demonstration should RSVP no later than 12 p.m., ET, Wednesday, April 12th by emailing Bobbi Hauptmann at bobbi.hauptmann@va.gov.