

**Department of  
Veterans Affairs**

# Memorandum

**Date:** December 14, 2021  
**From:** Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Operations(15)  
**Subj:** Supply Chain Conservation Campaign  
**To:** Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) Directors (10N1-23)  
VISN Chief Medical Officers  
Medical Center Directors (00)  
Chief Nurse Executives

1. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) remains committed to honoring our Nation's Veterans by ensuring a safe environment to deliver exceptional health care. Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is establishing a national supply chain conservation campaign to address unpredictable shortfalls in the resupply of medical products. The campaign, called "Keep it going! Conserve Critical Care Items" will raise awareness across the organization of the necessity to conserve.
2. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed global and United States supply chain weaknesses and VHA expects the manufacturing and distribution disruptions to continue for some time. As the virus spread, overall consumer demand decreased and industrial activity, in turn, decreased due to the lower consumer demand and effects of COVID-19. With the increasing level of vaccination globally and the end of lockdowns in many nations, consumer demand increased dramatically, while supply chains continue to face big challenges, including worker shortages and limitations in access to raw materials and key components.
3. VHA is actively addressing these challenges, implementing near-term methods to ensure internal VA supply chain resiliency, including monitoring the ability of our suppliers to fill our orders completely and timely, identification of alternatives for preferred products, and treating medical products as enterprise assets.
4. VHA continues to balance supplies of critical items, but the ongoing demand to these systems and the increasing need for medical supplies require us to step-up our conservation efforts.
5. Every VHA employee has a role to play in these conservation activities. Our conservation campaign will launch on December 10, 2021. Your Public Affairs Officers will be provided approved materials to post in your facilities to inform your employees.
6. VHA's commitment to providing excellent, safe, and high-quality health care remains our guiding principle. I know our workforce will recognize the importance of conserving our medical supplies. Our dedication to the Veterans we serve is unwavering and our determination to provide the best health care can be relied upon.

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7. Please direct specific questions to Michelle Spivak, VHA Office of Communications, at [michelle.spivakmelinger@va.gov](mailto:michelle.spivakmelinger@va.gov).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sammy Garnick".

for  
Renee Oshinski