

Agency Administrators: Tenure

Secretary Califano created the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) on March 8, 1977. Secretary Thompson renamed HCFA to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on June 14, 2001.

Note: Administrators are in all caps, those who were acting as Administrator are noted.

Administrator	Tenure
Don Wortman, Acting	3/77 - 4/77
Robert Derzon	6/77 - 11/78
Leonard Schaeffer	11/78 - 6/80
Earl Collier, Acting	6/80 - 7/80
Howard Newman	7/80 - 1/81
Paul Willging, Acting	1/81 - 3/81
Carolyne K. Davis	3/81 - 8/85
C. Mcclain Haddow, Acting	8/85 - 1/86
Henry F. Desmarais, Acting	2/86 - 5/86
William L. Roper, M.D.	5/86 - 2/89
Terry Coleman, Acting	2/89 -3/89
Louis Hays, Acting	3/89 - 2/90
Gail R. Wilensky, Ph.D.	2/90 - 3/92
J. Michael Hudson, Acting	3/92 - 4/92
William Toby, Acting	4/92 - 5/93
Bruce C. Vladeck	5/93 - 9/97
Nancy-Ann Min Deparle, Acting	9/97 - 11/97
Nancy-Ann Min Deparle	11/97 - 9/29/00
Michael M. Hash, Acting	9/30/00 - 12/15/00
Robert A. Berenson, M.D., Acting Deputy	12/16/00 - 1/19/01
Michael Mcmullan, Acting Deputy	01/20/01 - 05/28/01
Thomas A. Scully	05/29/01 - 12/16/03
Dennis G. Smith, Acting	12/17/03 – 3/24/04
Mark B. Mcclellan, M.D., Ph.D.	3/25/04 – 10/14/06
Leslie V. Norwalk, Acting	10/15/06 – 7/21/07
Herb B. Kuhn, Acting Deputy	7/22/07 – 9/4/07
Kerry Weems, Acting	9/5/07 - Present

Administrator Biographies

Robert A. Derzon was the first HCFA Administrator from 1977 to 1978. He also was senior vice President of Lewin/VHI and senior scholar at the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences. Derzon was chairman of the board of the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and served as director of the University of California's Hospitals and Clinics. Before that, he was the first deputy commissioner of hospitals for the city of New York.

Leonard D. Schaeffer served as HCFA Administrator from 1978 to 1980. Schaeffer was subsequently Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of WellPoint Health Networks, Inc. Before that, he served as President, and Chairman and CEO of Blue Cross of California. He was also President of Group Health Inc. Schaeffer also served as Assistant Secretary of Management and Budget at the Department of Health and Human Services in the Carter Administration. He has been actively involved in numerous business, philanthropic, and professional organizations.

Howard N. Newman served as HCFA Administrator from 1980 to 1981. He served as Dean of the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University. Before that, he was a partner in the law firm of Powell, Goldstein, Frazer & Murphy in Washington, D.C. Newman, also a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance, was the first President of the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and Commissioner of the Medical Services Administration in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Carolyne K. Davis served as HCFA Administrator from 1981 to 1985. She passed away July 12, 2003. In her last position, she served as manager of health care at Ernst & Young, a Washington, D.C. consulting firm. Before becoming HCFA Administrator, she was Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs at the University of Michigan, where she also served as Dean of the School of Nursing. She was chair of the Community Health Accreditation Program and was an elected member of the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences.

William L. Roper served as HCFA Administrator from 1986 to 1989. He subsequently served as Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina. Dr. Roper joined Prudential HealthCare in 1993 from his position as Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention which he began in 1990. He served in a variety of key positions in the White House including Director of the White House Office of Policy Development and as Deputy Assistant to the President for domestic policy in the George H. W. Bush Administration and as a White House Fellow in the Reagan Administration.

Gail R. Wilensky served as HCFA Administrator from 1990 to 1992. She subsequently served as The John M. Olin Senior Fellow at Project HOPE. She was chair of the Physician Payment Review Commission, and she was a Deputy Assistant to the President for policy development in the White House under President George H. W. Bush. She is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Bruce C. Vladeck served as HCFA Administrator from 1992 to 1997. Vladeck subsequently was a Senior Vice-President for Policy, Mount Sinai NYU Health and

Professor of Health Policy and Geriatrics. Previously, he was President of the United Hospital Fund of New York. He served on the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission. He served as Assistant Vice President of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, as Assistant Commissioner for Health Planning and Resources Development of the New Jersey State Department of Health, and taught at Columbia University.

Nancy-Ann Min DeParle served as HCFA Administrator from 1997 to 2000. She subsequently served as a Senior Advisor to JP Morgan Partners, LLC, and an Adjunct Professor of Health Care Systems at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. She served as Associate Director for Health and Personnel at the White House Office of Management and Budget in the Clinton Administration. She served as the Tennessee Commissioner of Human Services. She also worked as a lawyer in private practice in Nashville, Tennessee.

Thomas A. Scully served as CMS Administrator from 2001 until 2003. He subsequently practiced law at Alston & Bird. Previously, he served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Federation of American Hospitals from 1995 to 2001. Prior to joining the Federation, he practiced law at Patton Boggs. He held several positions in the George H.W. Bush Administration including Deputy Assistant to the President, Counselor to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and Associate Director of OMB for Human Resources, Veterans and Labor.

Mark B. McClellan served as CMS Administrator from 2004 until 2006. He came to CMS from the FDA, where he served as Commissioner. Prior positions include working as a Professor at Stanford University and as a practicing internist. From 1998-99, he was Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy. During 2001 and 2002, Dr. McClellan served in the White House as a Member of the President's Council of Economic Advisers.

Kerry Weems was named Acting Administrator in September 2007 at which point he had 24 years of service in the Department of Health and Human Services in positions including Deputy Chief of Staff, Acting Assistant Secretary for Budget, Technology and Finance, and Chief Financial Officer where he led the redesign and successful implementation of a financial management system for the Department. Mr. Weems earned his M.B.A. from the University of New Mexico.