

*From the Spring 2002 Newsletter*  
**A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR**

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This issue of **news@vhaethics** is devoted to ethical issues in managed care. VHA has adopted many managed care principles in an effort to continuously improve the quality, safety, and cost effectiveness of health care for veterans.

In this issue, the *Best Practices* article by Kate Cassidy examines VA's National Formulary system as a model of ethical and efficient resource allocation. The article by William Nelson, our National Education Coordinator, introduces the Center's exciting new online education course, *Ethics in Managed Care*. The *Legal Briefs* article by Jeffrey Oak, VHA Compliance and Business Integrity Officer, discusses documentation and its complex relationship with compliance and ethics.

Finally, in place of our usual *Ethics Rounds* column, we have included some reflections about fundamental values in the wake of September 11. On behalf of the National Center for Ethics staff, I would like to take this opportunity to express our profound grief for those who were lost and our deepest gratitude to those whose selflessness and strength serve as a model for us all.