



Kenneth W. Kizer, MD, MPH

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Dr. Kenneth W. Kizer is a highly experienced physician executive and internationally respected health care leader who is widely known for his expertise in health system transformation and management, patient safety and quality improvement, veterans and military health issues, and the management of public health emergencies. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. Among other roles, he currently serves on the governing boards or as an advisor to multiple health care companies.

Dr. Kizer's wide-ranging professional experience includes senior leadership positions in the public and private sectors, academia, and philanthropy. He has previously served as founding President and CEO, National Quality Forum, a Washington, DC-based quality improvement and consensus standards setting body that has been called the nation's premier health care quality improvement organization; Under Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and chief executive officer of the nation's largest healthcare system, in which capacity he engineered the internationally acclaimed transformation of the Veterans Healthcare System in the late 1990s; founding Chairman and later President and CEO, Medsphere Systems Corporation, a leading commercial provider of subscription-based health information technology; founding Director, Institute for Population Health Improvement and Distinguished Professor, University of California, Davis; inaugural Chief Medical Officer, California Department of Managed Health Care; Director, of the former California Department of Health Services; and Director, California Emergency Medical Services Authority, where he was the architect of the state's EMS and trauma care systems in the early 1980s.

During his record tenure as California's top health official he won high praise for orchestrating the state's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the largest pesticide poisoning epidemic in North American history, implementing California's famed Tobacco Control Program and the '5-a-Day' for Better Nutrition Program that the NCI later adopted for national implementation, pioneering Medicaid managed care, restructuring many of the state's public health and toxic substances control programs, and launching initiatives to improve the quality of nursing homes. He also has served on the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and as Chairman of The California Wellness Foundation, the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to population health improvement, as well as on the governing boards of a number of managed care and health IT companies, foundations, professional associations and non-profit organizations.

Dr. Kizer is an honors graduate of Stanford University and the UCLA Schools of Medicine and Public Health, the recipient of two honorary doctorates, and a fellow or distinguished fellow of 12 professional societies. He is board certified in six medical specialties and/or subspecialties, and has authored over 500 original articles, book chapters and other reports in the professional literature. He is a Fellow National of the international Explorer's Club, the architect and founding member of the international Wilderness Medical Society, and a former U.S. Navy diving medical officer and certified Navy diver.