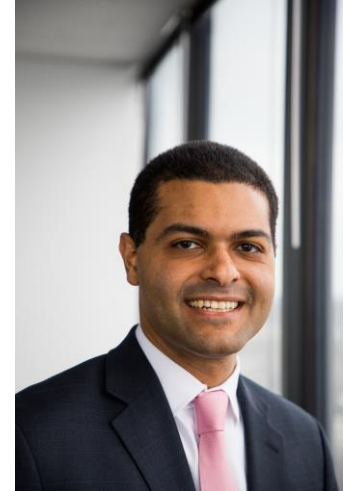


NEW JERSEY**Shereef Elnahal, MD****Acting Commissioner of Health**

New Jersey Department of Health



Dr. Shereef Elnahal began serving as Acting Commissioner of Health on January 25, 2018. Prior to leading the Department, Dr. Elnahal was a physician executive in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), serving as the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Quality, Safety, and Value in the Veterans Health Administration. He was also an adjunct assistant professor at the Georgetown University Department of Health Policy and Management. In the VA, he led efforts to improve the quality and safety of healthcare delivery to veterans. Additionally, Dr. Elnahal has spearheaded unprecedented efforts around transparency in access and performance, as well as standardizing best practices that prevent opioid dependency, improve women's healthcare, and enhance access to care for veterans. He has testified before the US Senate VA Committee and has worked with members of Congress in the House and Senate to pass key legislation that improves the lives of veterans. Most recently, he built a healthcare operations center that facilitated response efforts to facilities in crisis. This operations center also assisted in response efforts for natural disasters that impacted Houston, Florida, and Puerto Rico in 2017.



Dr. Elnahal was appointed to VA by President Obama as a White House Fellow in 2015. In this capacity, he founded the Diffusion of Excellence Initiative, the major initiative to establish consistency in clinical and administrative operations across the nation. At Georgetown, Dr. Elnahal taught graduate courses on healthcare quality and performance. He has authored many publications on health care quality, operations management, and patient safety in journals such as JAMA, BMJ, the American Journal of Medical Quality, and the Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network.

Previously, Dr. Elnahal co-developed a published methodology that doubled clinic efficiency in the Johns Hopkins Pancreatic Multidisciplinary Clinic, cutting patient wait times by half. As an operations consultant for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and Pittsburgh VA hospitals, he expanded on this work to improve care access for veterans and active duty service members. He also served on committees in the Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality, and chaired the Patient Safety and Quality Council at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Elnahal served on advisory boards for two firms focused on patient education and clinical operations, and co-founded the Baltimore chapter of The Triple Helix, a 501(c)(3) non-profit that publishes an internationally-circulated journal on science in society. His civic contributions earned him the 2015 National Quality Scholar Award from the American College of Medical Quality (ACMQ). Dr. Elnahal has also served on non-profit boards for the ACMQ, the High Reliability Organization Council, and the ADAMS Civic Engagement Committee in Sterling, Virginia.

Dr. Elnahal received a dual-degree M.D. and M.B.A. with Distinction from Harvard University, then completed his residency training in Brigham and Women's Hospital and Johns Hopkins Hospital. He graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in biophysics from Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Elnahal is a native of Linwood, NJ and is humbled and honored by the opportunity, if confirmed, to return to his home state and serve the people of New Jersey.