



Syracuse VA Medical Center  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Syracuse VA Medical Center Highlighted in Healthcare Equality Index 2013**  
*Named as “Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality” by National Survey*

**Syracuse, NY-** The Syracuse VA Medical Center has been recognized as a “Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality” in the Healthcare Equality Index 2013, an annual survey conducted by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation, the educational arm of the country’s largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organization.

The VA earned top marks for its commitment to equitable, inclusive care for LGBT patients and their families, who can face significant challenges in securing adequate healthcare. **Dr. Judy Hayman, acting Syracuse VA Medical Center director states, “The Syracuse VA Medical Center is pleased to be recognized as leader in providing equitable, culturally relevant, respectful and inclusive care and services to LGBT US Veterans seeking healthcare.”**

The Syracuse VA was one of a select group of 464 healthcare facilities nationwide to be named Leaders in LGBT Healthcare Equality. Facilities awarded this title meet key criteria for equitable care, including non-discrimination policies for LGBT patients and employees, a guarantee of equal visitation for same-sex partners and parents, and LGBT health education for key staff members.

The VA was congratulated by HRC Health & Aging Director Shane Snowdon. “LGBT patients deeply appreciate the welcoming environment provided by a Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality. It makes a big difference to know that your local healthcare facility is fully committed to giving you the same care it gives your neighbors and co-workers.”

For more information about the Healthcare Equality Index 2013, or to download a free copy of the report, visit [www.hrc.org/hei](http://www.hrc.org/hei).