

# Tamar Thompson

VP of US Government Affairs and Policy and Alexion  
Pharmaceuticals



## Life In Brief

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### Education:

- MS, Health Sciences and Public Health, Trident University International, 2010

### Work History:

- VP of US Government Affairs and Policy, Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 2019-Present
- Head of Federal Executive Branch Strategy and State Government Affairs, Bristol-Myers Squibb, 2015-2019
- Vice President, ADVI Health, LLC, 2013-2015
- VP of Value-Based Purchasing and Health Policy, Kimbell & Associates, 2009-2013
- Senior Manager, Avalere Health, 2009
- Director of Health Policy and Reimbursement, Progenics Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 2008
- Manager of Healthcare Economics, Bracco, 2006-2008
- Reimbursement Project Manager, GE Healthcare, 2005-2007
- Claims Manager, ValueOptions, 1998-2000
- Director of Claims, LifeSynch/Humana, 1996-1998

## Quick Summary

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**Health policy and reimbursement specialist who has established an accomplished career spanning several prominent firms; in addition to her work with health care policy, she has also been a leading advocate for Diversity and Inclusion initiatives at Alexion**

- Began her career doing clinical coding and handling medical records; describes the role as translating clinical care into numeric values, which then moves into determining reimbursement payments

- Extensive experience in the health care policy field has led to her fostering relationships with private payers and patient advocacy groups in addition to congressional leaders and government agencies
- Has managed a variety of clients, including pharmaceutical, biotech, specialty drug, and medical device companies; examples include Roche Holdings and Abbott Laboratories
- Has held government affairs leadership roles at prominent companies such as Kimbell & Associates, ADVI Health, and Bristol-Myers Squibb; joined Alexion in 2019, partially because Alexion's leadership team reflected a diverse workforce
- Unlike many of her government affairs colleagues, Thompson has never worked on the Hill, instead shifting from health information management to lobbying after establishing her career; as an Air Force wife, she was unable to stay in the same place for an extended period of time to develop a career at one company and had to overcome that challenge
- Highly involved in Diversity and Inclusion efforts at Alexion; believes that a diverse workforce is beneficial to all companies, but especially important for pharmaceutical companies in order for clinical trials to reflect the diversity of the American and global markets and result in improved health care products and treatments

## Approach and Motivations

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**Entered health information management in order to be actively involved in health care without the patient-oriented aspect of nursing, which eventually led to a shift towards policy; feels a personal incentive to push for substantive diversity and inclusion efforts**

- Long-standing interest in the healthcare field, initially wanting to be a nurse but found she was uncomfortable with the clinical aspect of care;

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grateful to have had a mentor who suggested health information management as a way to be involved in health care from an administrative role

- As one of only three Black female pharmaceutical heads of office, Thompson felt it was imperative for her to lead the company's Diversity and Inclusion efforts, especially given what she calls the "perfect storm" of the instability of the COVID-19 pandemic combined with social unrest over racial injustice
- Works closely with Alexion's Chief Diversity Officer, Uzair Qadeer, who reports to the CEO rather than Human Resources in order to hold the company's C-suite accountable; Thompson and Qadeer believe that Diversity and Inclusion efforts should be meaningful rather than "simply ticking the boxes"
- Recognizes that Alexion's focus on treatments of rare diseases makes obtaining enough participation in clinical trials an already difficult task without the challenge of actively seeking diversity, but affirms that it is a goal she will work towards reaching
- Reflects on previous generations of racial justice advocates, particularly following the death of civil rights leader John Lewis, and considers whether the current generation of activists are cognizant of their teachings so as not to become complacent

