

Virtual Care CORE



November 2022 Newsletter

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Recent News from OCC and the VC CORE

NEW Evidence Synthesis Program (ESP) Brief on Telemental Health

The ESP recently finalized an [Evidence Brief on the Safety and Effectiveness of Telehealth-delivered Mental Health Care](#) requested by the office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention. The brief is roughly 50 pages (without references) organized around comparisons of in-person care, video tele-conferencing in the home and clinic clinic, and care delivered by telephone in PTSD, Depression, Anxiety, Substance Use, and Multiple Mental Health conditions. Most studies were focused on PTSD, where there was low strength evidence that symptom severity did not significantly differ between in home video teleconferencing and in-person care. No studies in the brief focused on bipolar disorder, serious mental illness, or suicidality – areas similarly highlighted in the [Evidence Brief on VC Outcomes](#) compiled for the Virtual Care SOTA earlier this year.

Soliciting Priority Questions and Ideas for Caregiver Research

The Elizabeth Dole Center for Veteran and Caregiver Research is looking to help the VA develop a research agenda focused on caregiving. This agenda would identify gaps in our knowledge, policies, and programs that can best support caregivers of Veterans. If you would like to share your perspective by submitting a caregiver research question(s), [click this link to the RedCap Survey](#).

Support Standardized Measures in Virtual Care

Consider Contributing to the Metrics Compendium!

The VC CORE is building on the Veterans Access Research Consortium's (VARC) crowd-sourced library of virtual care access metrics for researchers in the [VARC Access Metrics Compendium](#). This product will help researchers and administrators quickly identify what access metrics are available, whether they have been validated, and where they can be found in various data sources.

If you have a measure that would be valuable to share with colleagues, please let us know! Some virtual care topics we are interested in creating measures for include:

1. Accessing/analyzing data from VA Mobile Apps
2. Telephone visits
3. E-Consults
4. Home Telehealth
5. Store & Forward Telehealth
6. Provider or facility experience measures (surveys)

Email Cindie.Slightam@va.gov to get involved!

What can CORE do for You? A Quick Reminder

The VC CORE has been active for nearly 3 years now! As such, we have many new members who may not be aware of (and long-time members who may have lost track of) some of the services we promoted early in our tenure and are always happy to provide this network and VA at large. With that in mind, here is a quick reminder of what the VC CORE can do for you. We hope you will consider these modes of engaging with us!

- **Connections to other members of the network:** whether you are seeking a mentor (or mentee), a review of your aims page, abstract, or proposal, a collaborator for a project, or someone with specific expertise, VC CORE can help you find members of our network who are a good fit and facilitate a warm introduction!
- **Visibility and dissemination:** we want to amplify your voice and promote and recognize your work, particularly within VA. If you send us your journal articles, presentations, events, awards, etc., we are glad to share them via this newsletter, our Twitter feed, and ad-hoc emails to the network. Additionally – for early career investigators we are happy to share “spotlight” posts in order to introduce you to the greater VA VC Community!
- **Crowdsourcing of ideas, local practices, referrals and more:** We have placed “help wanted” style posts in our newsletter for dozens of network members seeking responses to surveys, ideas for research questions, and referrals for local hires. We’ve asked and gotten feedback that these receive a limited but highly relevant and targeted response rate!

We always welcome your blue-sky thoughts about other ways in which we can make this network greater than the sum of its parts! Please reach out to us with any ideas or specific requests at VHAVirtualCareCORE@va.gov.

Congratulations to VC CORE Members on their Recent and Upcoming Presentations

Kritee Gujral for her presentation at PBI Tech into Care on “[Impact of VA’s Telehealth Tablets on Rural Veterans’ Mental Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#),” on 9/14/2022.

Funding and Presentation Opportunities and Deadlines

Opportunities	Contact	Deadline
Special Collection on Technology and Digital Innovations in Patient Experience Journal of Patient Experience (JPX) is seeking papers which explore how rapid advances in technology and digital innovations represent important opportunities and challenges in understanding the field of healthcare experience, quality, and safety.	Special Collection on Technology and Digital Innovations in Patient Experience: Journal of Patient Experience: SAGE Journals (sagepub.com)	12/15/2022

Recent Virtual Care Publications

- Gujral, K., Van Campen, J., Jacobs, J., Kimerling, R., Blonigen, D., Zulman, D.M. [Mental Health Service Use, Suicide Behavior, and Emergency Department Visits Among Rural US Veterans Who Received Video-Enabled Tablets During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). *JAMA Network Open*, 04/2022.
- Gujral, K., Scott, J.Y., Ambady, L., Dismuke-Greer, C.E., Jacobs, J., Chow, A., Oh, A., Yoon, J. [A Primary Care Telehealth Pilot Program to Improve Access: Associations with Patients' Health Care Utilization and Costs](#). *Telemedicine and e-Health*, 05/2022.
- Oh, A., Scott, J.Y., Chow, A., Jiang H., Dismuke-Greer C.E., Gujral, K., Yoon, J. [Rural and urban differences in the implementation of Virtual Integrated Patient-Aligned Care Teams](#). *Journal of Rural Health*, 05/2022.
- Cordasco, K.M., Yuan, A.H., Rollman, J.E., Moreau, J.L., Edwards, L.K., Gable, A.R., Hsiao, J.J., Ganz, D.A., Vashi, A.A., Mehta, P.A., Jackson, N.J. [Veterans’ Use of Telehealth for VA Community Care Urgent Care During the Early COVID-19 Pandemic](#). *Medical Care*, 11/2022.

- Vimalananda, V.G., Brito, J.P., Eiland, L.A., Lal, R.A., Maraka, S., McDonnell, M.E., Narla, R.R., Roth, M.Y., Crossen, S.S. [Appropriate Use of Telehealth Visits in Endocrinology: Policy Perspective of the Endocrine Society](#). *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism*, 10/2022.

Upcoming Meetings and Cyberseminars

Title	Presenter(s)	Date/Time
Navigating VA Data Sources: An Overview of Commonly Used Databases	Maria Souden, MSI, PhD	11/7/2022 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST
Advancing Health Equity Through Inclusive Digital Health Measurement Product Development and Deployment	Madison Coffey, MPP(c) Amanda Purnell, PhD Yashoda Sharma, PhD	11/9/2022 12:00 – 1:00 PM EST
Strength of Evidence Checklist – Using Evidence to Justify Policy & Budget Decisions	Melissa Garrido, PhD Elsa Pearson Sites, MPH	11/9/2022 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST
VINCI Data Services: An Overview (va.gov)	Steven Oostema, MS	11/10/2022 2:00 – 3:00 PM EST
Navigating VA Data Access: An Overview of the Process for Requesting Permission to Use VA Data	Linda Kok, MA	12/5/2022 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST

Past Presentations and Cyberseminars

Title	Presenter(s)	Date/Time
Current and Future Directions in QUERI	Melissa Braganza, MPH Amy Kilbourne, PhD, MPH	10/26/2022 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST
Describing the Tele-Mental Health Services Delivered Nationally by the Clinical Resource Hubs	Brad Felker, MD Lucinda Leung, MD, PhD, MPH	10/19/2022 12:00 – 1:00 PM EST
A Practical Approach to Working with VA-Purchased Community Care Data	Erin Beilstein-Wedel, MS	10/13/2022 2:00 – 3:00 PM EST
Winter 2023 QUERI Request for Applications (RFA) Informational Cyberseminar	Amy Kilbourne, PhD, MPH	10/12/2022 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST
Research Priorities and Takeaways from the Virtual Care State of the Art Conference in May 2022	Samantha Connolly, PhD Jeydith Gutierrez, MD, MPH Taona Haderlein, PhD, MA Leonie Heyworth, MD, MPH Timothy Hogan, PhD Donna Zulman, MD, MS	10/4/2022 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST

Links to Resources

Telehealth

- [VHA Telehealth Services Website](#)
- [Telehealth Intranet Site](#)
- [VHA Mobile and Peripheral Devices for Facilities](#)

VA Mobile

- [VA Mobile | VA App Store](#)
- [New VA Mobile 'My App List' functionality/categories](#)
- [ANNIE Automated Texting System | SharePoint site](#)
- [VACO Mobile Mental Health & Technology | SharePoint site](#)
- [VA Mobile Health Practice Guide | SharePoint site](#)

MyHealtheVet

- [MyHealtheVet | Portal Homepage](#)
- [MyHealtheVet | VA Intranet Product Homepage](#)
- [My HealtheVet Statistics - My HealtheVet Product \(va.gov\)](#)
- [My HealtheVet Secure Messaging Reports Guide](#)

Data Reports, Measures, Definitions, and Training

- [VHA Reports and Measures Portal \(RAMP\)](#)
- [Reporting and Analytics Field Training \(RAFT\)](#)
- [VSSC – Connected Care, Telehealth, Call Centers](#)
- [Data Definitions for VSSC Data Cubes](#)

Patient Generated Health Data

- [Approved VA Policy on PGHD](#)
- [PGHD video for staff](#)

General Office of Connected Care

- [Connected Care Website](#)
- [Connected Care Outreach Toolkit](#)
- [Connected Care Academy](#) (VA Intranet Required)

Contact Information

- For any comments or questions about material in this newsletter or about the Virtual Care Consortium of Research, please email the CORE team at VHAVirtualCareCore@va.gov.
- Please let us know if you have news to share with the community! Email us and we will add it to the next newsletter.
- Finally, [follow us on Twitter](#) for regular, bird-sized bits of information!

The mission of the VA Virtual Care Consortium of Research is to facilitate research that evaluates and improves use of virtual care to enhance the accessibility, capacity and quality of VA health care and Veteran experience.
