

# Dual Use of Medications Partnered Evaluation Initiative (DUAL PEI)

VA

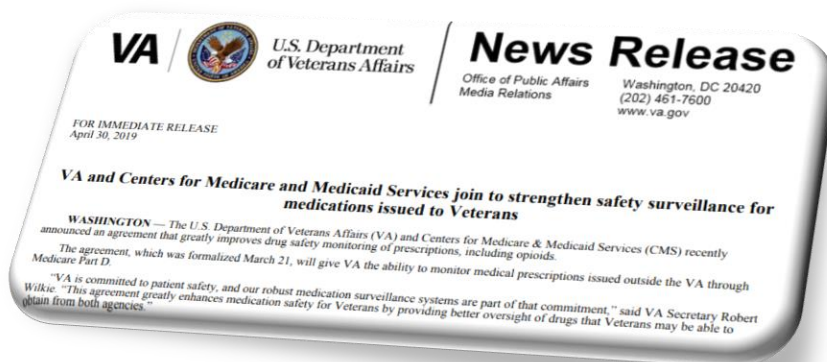


U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Quality Enhancement Research Initiative

## Improving the safety of medication use for Veterans

The purpose of DUAL PEI is to strengthen medication safety surveillance for Veterans who use multiple health systems for their medication therapy – a top priority for VA with the expansion of VA Community Care and the potential risks inherent in receiving medications from multiple health systems. The Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion (CHERP) will partner with the VA Center for Medication Safety (VAMedSAFE) to develop and evaluate new and enhanced quality improvement tools that use combined data from VA and CMS to improve drug safety for Veterans.

## CMS/VA Collaboration Breaks New Ground for Medication Safety for Veterans



VAMedSAFE is charged with improving the safety of medication use for Veterans. VAMedSAFE's interventions address the most serious, prevalent, and high-priority health conditions among Veterans, and yet they have a key limitation - they cannot account for medications received by Veterans outside VA.

- **Challenge:** More than 80% of VA enrollees have access to medications through other forms of health insurance, including 50% with Medicare.
- **Evidence-based practice:** VAMedSafe will receive CMS data on dispensed Medicare prescriptions for all enrolled Veterans and will integrate these data into their ongoing medication surveillance activities. CHERP will evaluate the impact of adding these CMS data on drug safety.
- **Implementation strategies:** DUAL PEI will create and disseminate a dashboard using combined VA and Medicare prescription data and will gather feedback from providers on how to implement it effectively across the VA.
- **Impacts:** Millions of Veterans previously at risk for unsafe medication use from Medicare.
- **Partnerships:** VAMedSafe, CHERP

# Millions of Veterans will benefit from the results of this project which uses cross-cutting methods of Implementation Science to address dual system use of medications

Walid Gellad, MD, MPH and his CHERP-based team will partner with Fran Cunningham, PharmD and VAMedSAFE to develop and evaluate new and enhanced quality improvement tools that use combined data from VA and CMS to improve drug safety for Veterans through the following activities:



Identify the highest risk medications once VA and Medicare data are combined.



Examine how to implement medication safety tools using combined VA and Medicare data.



Evaluate the launch of a new safety dashboard for a high-risk medication and anticipate continuing challenges and future opportunities for improvement.

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