

QUERI SHAARK Partnered Evaluation



Spreading Healthcare Access, Activities, Research and Knowledge (SHAARK)

The QUERI SHAARK Partnered Evaluation Initiative helps to increase the impact of the VHA Diffusion of Excellence (DoE) program, which provides a national infrastructure for eliciting, implementing, and diffusing promising VA practices. In partnership with the VHA Innovation Ecosystem, the QUERI SHAARK uses a mixed-methods approach, which has resulted in the production of 30 products and data sources across DoE Promising Practices.

Partnered Approach to Diffuse VA Innovations

Healthcare systems consistently seek to ensure access to evidence-based care, addressing unique needs of individual patients while consistently meeting core clinical standards. VHA seeks to evolve into a **learning health system** to accelerate continuous learning, by developing and **diffusing innovations**.

The VHA Innovation Ecosystem Diffusion of Excellence is a program which aims to embed innovation in the core fabric of the VHA, build a collaborative innovation community, and deliver a repeatable process for scaling innovations and evidence-based programs across VHA. QUERI SHAARK helps DoE respond to the following key questions and goals:

- How do we encourage meaningful engagement?**
- How do leaders choose practices?**
- What influences implementation success?**
- What factors influence spread of practices?**

QUERI SHAARK HIGHLIGHTS*

98% of VHA facilities have submitted at least 1 Shark Tank application



1,440 adoptions of DoE Promising Practices in the Diffusion Marketplace



56% of VHA facilities are sustaining DoE Promising Practices



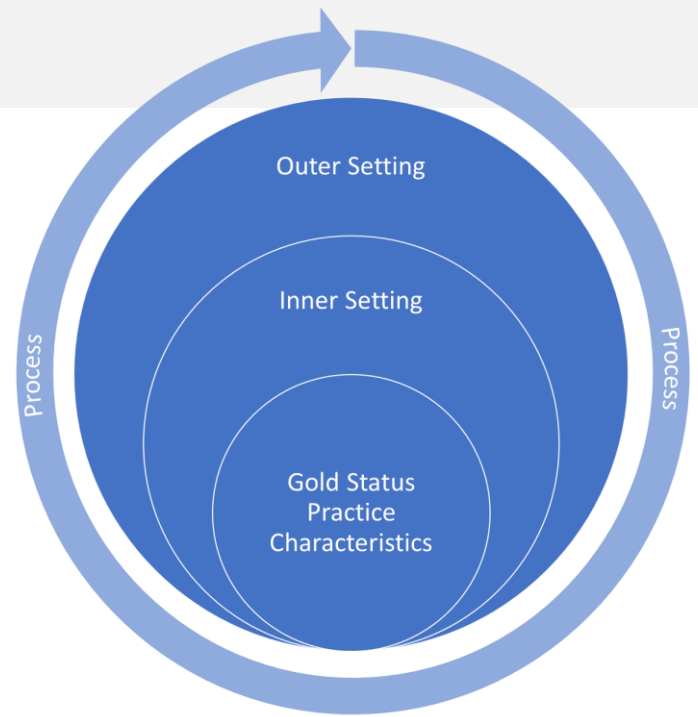
130+ qualitative interviews with VA frontline staff and executive leaders on adoption and implementation of DoE promising practices

*As of April 2023

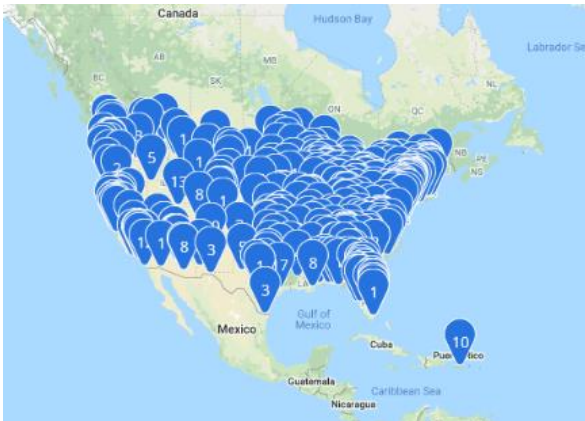
Guiding Theories & Frameworks

QUERI SHAARK is a mixed-methods evaluation guided by implementation science frameworks and theories including the **Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR)**, **Theory of Organizational Readiness for Change**, and the **Rogers Diffusion of Innovation**. These theories and frameworks have been applied across the evaluation using the following methods:

- *Quantitative, Secondary Analysis of Trends in DoE Participation and Practice Spread (combined with VA administrative and quality data)*
- *Semi-structured Qualitative Interviews with DoE Fellows, Implementing Facility Fellows, Support Staff, Contractors, & VHA Executive Leaders*
- *VHA Shark Tank Focus Groups with Medical Center and VISN Executives (“Sharks”)*
- *Practice Sustainment Surveys*
- *DoE Event Participant Surveys*



Impacting Sustainment & Spread of VA Promising Practices



To inform the growth and evolution of the DoE, the QUERI SHAARK provides data collection on and analyses of Promising Practices, resulting in:

- *Improved DoE stakeholder engagement processes*
- *Typology of Facility Engagement with VHA Shark Tank*
- *Facility sustainment measure of DoE Promising Practices*
- *Diffusion Marketplace data at facility and practice levels*

Future plans and next steps involve continued collaboration with the DoE to utilize human-centered design approaches to define the “health” and success of innovation programs at the VHA Central Office, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN), and facility levels.

For more information, check out:

https://www.queri.research.va.gov/national_partnered_evaluations/diffusion.cfm

If you would like to learn more or partner with us, please contact Program Coordinator, Brandolyn White at brandolyn.white@va.gov.

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