

VA Quality Enhancement Research Initiative

2020 Program Impact

VA's Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI) develops and facilitates rapid knowledge translation, implementation, and evaluation of effective innovations in real-world settings, thereby supporting frontline providers in deploying best practices that optimize care for Veterans.



New Initiatives and Centers

Despite challenges presented by the pandemic, the past year has been one of tremendous growth for QUERI. With over 45 centers across the U.S., QUERI expanded several new initiatives in 2020, notably:

- Funding of additional multi-site and rapid response quality improvement initiatives;
- Resources to support VA implementation initiatives, including the [QUERI Implementation Roadmap Guide](#), [ACTION Impact Framework](#), and virtual training opportunities through the [QUERI Implementation Strategy Learning Hubs](#); and
- National evaluations informing programs and policies for the Evidence Act (US PL 115-435).

New QUERI centers focus on Veteran priority topics, including but not limited to: Access and Health Equity, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, and Pain Care and Opioid Safety. Key to QUERI's ongoing success is its national network of implementation experts, who collectively partner with more than 70 national and regional operations partners to implement and evaluate programs, practices, and policies across all 18 VISNs.

Notable Accomplishments

- National implementation with the VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention of the Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program of team-based care that reduced mental health hospitalizations for Veterans.

- Rapid scale-up of medication-assisted treatment for Veterans with opioid use disorder through virtual QI training and facilitation.
- Evaluation of the national implementation of VA's Whole Health initiative with the Office of Patient-Centered Care and Cultural Transformation, which demonstrated the growing use of complementary and integrative health practices among Veterans.
- Further spread of the STRIDE (assiSTed eaRly mobiLity for hospitalizeD older vEtErans) program to reduce disability among hospitalized Veterans, in partnership with VA's Diffusion of Excellence Initiative.
- Development of nationally recognized quality-improvement programs, including one that increased team collaboration among VA Community Living Center (CLC) staff.
- National improvements in stroke care by implementing the Acute Ischemic Stroke Directive QI program, which led to improvements in the rate of thrombolysis (breakdown of blood clots formed in blood vessels through medication).
- The QUERI ACTION (Alignment, Commitment, Tailoring, Informing the field, Observing healthcare changes, and generating New questions/projects) framework which provides measures of impact for scientific implementation and policy initiatives.

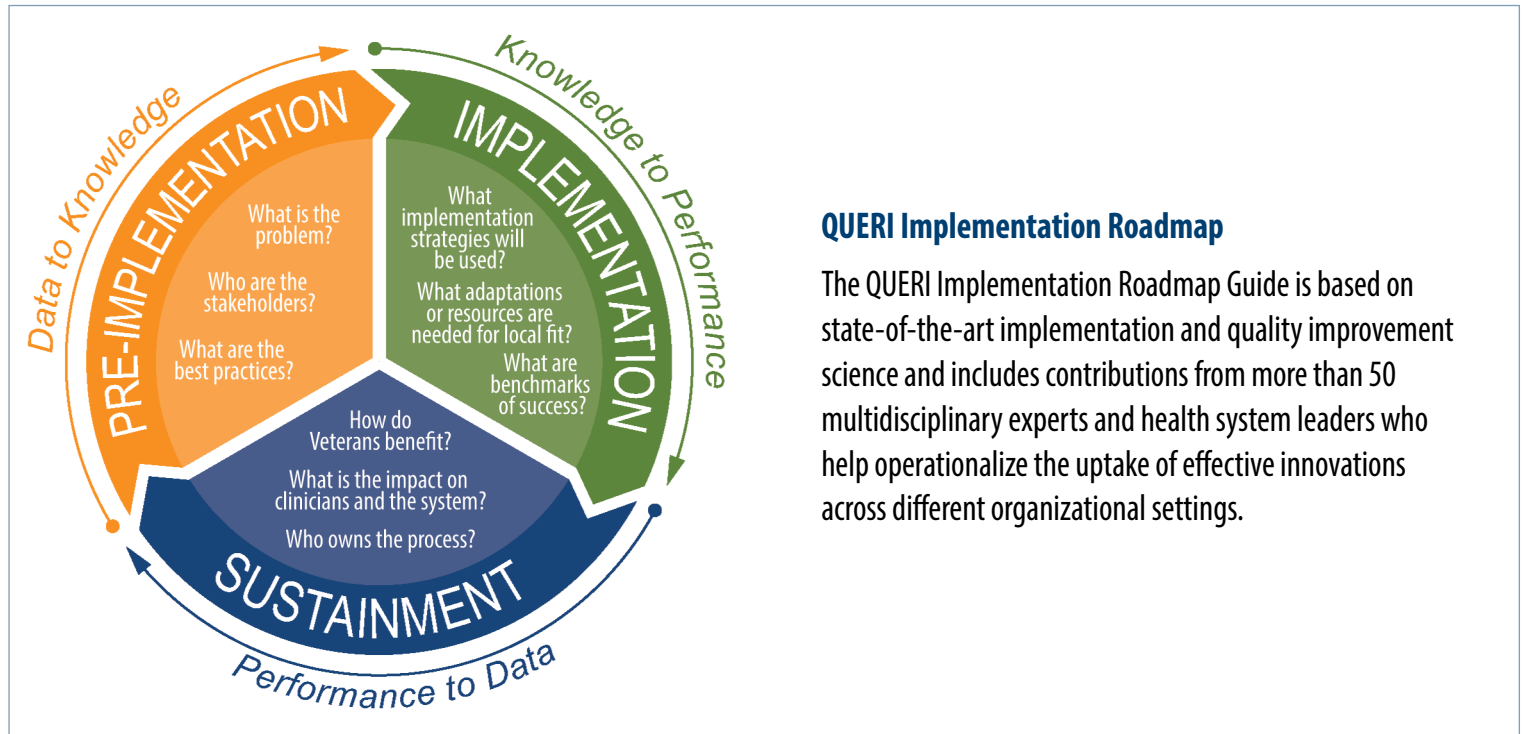
(cont'd)



VA QUERI 2020 Program Impact

QUERI and COVID-19

QUERI was well-positioned to meet the challenges of the fast-changing dynamics of COVID-19. Throughout the pandemic, QUERI continued to innovate and respond to new priorities (e.g., Swab Squad, tele-critical care learning communities, virtual provider leadership support, rapid scale-up of advanced care planning for Veterans). QUERI also has several ongoing studies related to COVID, on topics ranging from racial/ethnic disparities in COVID-19 infection and complications to identifying Veterans' experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.



QUERI Implementation Roadmap

The QUERI Implementation Roadmap Guide is based on state-of-the-art implementation and quality improvement science and includes contributions from more than 50 multidisciplinary experts and health system leaders who help operationalize the uptake of effective innovations across different organizational settings.

Five-Year Strategic Plan

For 2021-2025, QUERI has identified several ambitious [strategic goals](#): reduce unwanted clinical variation, provide rapid response to national priorities, deepen active partnerships with clinical operations, promote learning organization goals, and empower employees to move the needle on quality of care for Veterans. These goals, which require a crucial balance in rigor and response, will mean a more prominent role for QUERI in helping VA set clinical improvement priorities. Novel initiatives, such as the QUERI Program Rapid Response Teams, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) Partnered Implementation Initiatives, and the QUERI Resource Center Collaborative, will support VA in achieving the goal of a high-reliability learning organization that provides the best care anywhere.



VA Quality Enhancement Research Initiative

EVIDENCE INTO PRACTICE