

QUERI Partnered Evaluation Initiative

June 2018

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Sustaining STAR-VA

Partnered Evaluation of Veteran, Implementation and Facility Factors Contributing to Positive Sustained Outcomes to Inform Ongoing Program Implementation

Western New York

Boston, MA

Providence, RI

Overview

The Staff Training in Assisted Living Residences (STAR) intervention was originally developed for training direct care workers in assisted living residences to improve the care of older adults with dementia by successfully managing the challenging behaviors commonly exhibited by these residents. STAR-VA adapted this intervention to be a Veteran-centered, interdisciplinary, behavioral approach for managing the behavioral symptoms of dementia (BSD) in VA Community Living Centers (CLCs). Between 2013 and 2016, this intervention was implemented in 66 VA CLC sites. Veterans enrolled in STAR-VA demonstrate significantly decreased frequency and severity of targeted challenging behaviors, symptoms of depression, anxiety, and agitation. CLC staff also report increased confidence in their ability to understand and manage behavioral symptoms. However, VA has not yet been able to evaluate the longitudinal and systemic impact of STAR-VA for Veterans and staff, nor contributors to its sustainability.

Collaborative evaluation is necessary to demonstrate the longitudinal impact of STAR-VA on CLC Veteran and site level outcomes and to determine factors associated with sustained implementation and positive outcomes, in order to support program sustainment and expansion. The Sustaining STAR-VA Partnered Evaluation aims to:

- 1 Develop and validate a quality indicator for monitoring the prevalence of BSD.
- 2 Evaluate the longitudinal effect of STAR-VA by comparing site and Veteran outcomes at trained and untrained CLCs on BSD, psychotropic medication use, and staff injuries.
- 3 Examine variations in the sustained implementation of STAR-VA in trained CLCs.

Methodology

Investigators will create a BSD quality indicator from mandatory Resident Assessment Instrument Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0 behavior variables, validated by STAR-VA outcome measures of behavior, depression and anxiety collected for 280 Veteran training cases enrolled in STAR-VA between 2013 and 2016. They will evaluate the longitudinal effect of STAR-VA implementation by comparing site and Veteran outcomes at trained and untrained CLCs using a differences-in-differences design. Investigators also will prospectively conduct qualitative interviews with high- and low-performing and high- and low-adherence STAR-VA trained CLC sites. Quantitative and qualitative factors related to sustained implementation and positive outcomes will guide the development of an outcome-driven, tailored sustainability intervention designed to improve poor-performer and maintain high-performer outcomes.

Anticipated Impacts

INDICATORS

Prevalence of BSD in CLC Veterans

Identify characteristics associated with change in BSD

OUTCOMES

Identify STAR-VA implementation best practices

Identify high and low performing CLCs

SUSTAINMENT

Identify STAR-VA sustainment facilitators and barriers

Sustainment intervention and evaluation strategy

Operations Partner(s):

The Offices of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention (OM-HSP) and Geriatrics and Extended Care (GEC) are the partners for this project. The evaluation of STAR-VA implementation also involves substantial support from Serious Mental Illness Treatment Resource and Evaluation Center (SMITREC) and GEC Data and Analyses Center (GECDAC).



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

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