

QUERI Partnered Evaluation Initiative

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Overview & Methodology

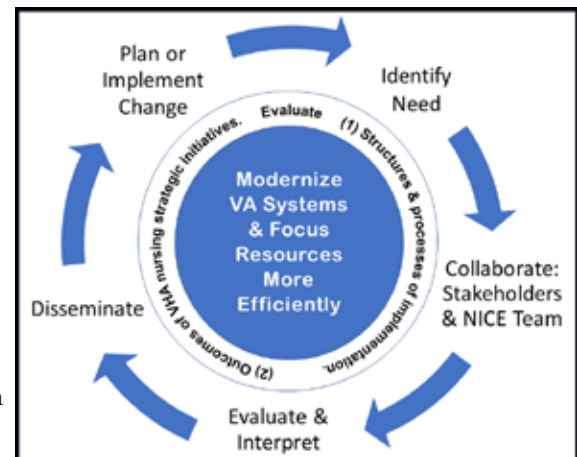
NICE QUERI provides VA's Office of Nursing Services (ONS) with evaluation services to assist in achieving strategic goals. Evaluations focus on high-priority programs and activities in clinical practice, academics and training, workforce, and research and evidence-based practice. ONS and NICE staff collaborate to refine evaluation questions and plans. NICE conducts the evaluation, reports results to ONS, and assists in dissemination and implementation to influence VA policy and clinical practice.

Projects

Registered Nurse Transition-to-Practice Residency Program (RNTTP). Since 2011, VA required each VA medical center to establish and maintain a RNTTP/Residency program when hiring post-graduate RNs with less than one year of professional nursing experience. The RNTTP program assists the post-graduate RN in the transition from academia to a complex practice environment. The program consists of a comprehensive 12-month curriculum built upon standards related to clinical, leadership, and professional dimensions. Each post-graduate RN is assigned a Preceptor—an experienced RN who completed preceptor training. The NICE team will revise an end-of-program satisfaction scale and residency competency assessment.

Full Practice Authority. In response to trends across states and recommendations by the National Academy of Medicine and National Council of State Boards of Nursing, VA authorized full practice authority (FPA) for three groups of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) in 2017. FPA legislation provided for all nurse practitioners (based on their education and training) to evaluate patients, diagnose, order and interpret diagnostic tests, initiate and manage treatments—including prescribing medications and controlled substances. NICE will evaluate the impact of FPA on quality of care, APRN satisfaction and patient satisfaction in primary care and mental health.

Implementation of Evidence-based Practice. In 2017, ONS leadership issued a call for nominees to serve on a new field advisory committee (FAC) to increase the use of evidence-based practice to improve nurse sensitive indicators (e.g., falls with injury, pressure injuries, restraints, and hospital-acquired infections). NICE is conducting a social network analysis with FAC members and their contacts to describe the development of an evidence-based practice (EBP) network within the VA health-care system. Results will be used to identify patterns that could be strengthened and replicated in other contexts.



Project	Dates	Impact
<i>Prevention of Pressure Ulcers</i>	2014-2015	Through interviews of multiple stakeholders, best practices were identified and used in revisions of the VHA Handbook on Prevention of Pressure Ulcers (1180.02).
<i>Doctorally-Prepared Nurses</i>	2015-2017	Results of a VA-wide survey of doctorally-prepared nurses were disseminated widely to VA nurses and nurse executives. The Research Field Advisory Committee is using results to support doctoral education of VA nurses to further advanced practice, evidence-based practice, and nursing research.
<i>Evidence-Based Practice Curriculum</i>	2015-2017	ONS used results from surveys of EBP faculty and observations of trainings to improve the curriculum. Interview data from nurse executives provided a basis for overcoming barriers to EBP.

Operations Partner(s)

The Office of Nursing Services (ONS), whose mission is to provide leadership, guidance, and strategic direction on all issues related to nursing practice and nursing workforce for clinical programs across the continuum of care and across the spectrum of care delivery sites that impact our Veterans.



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