

Evaluation of the National Implementation of the VA Diffusion of Excellence Initiative on Advance Care Planning via Group Visits

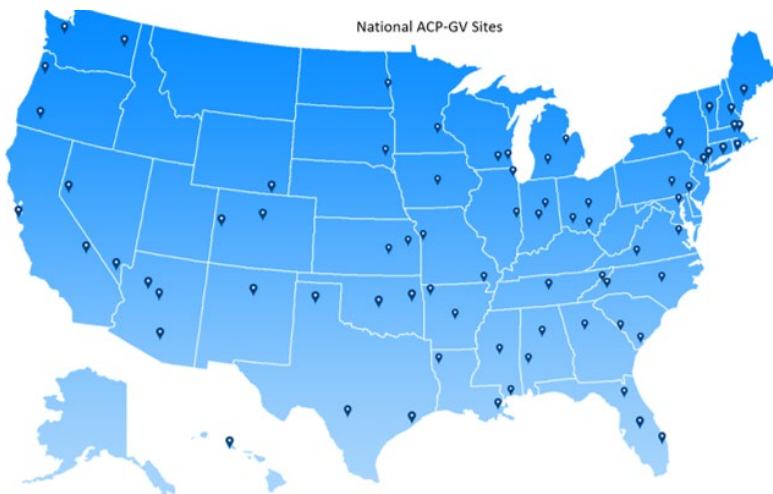
Now more than ever, helping honor Veteran care preferences

This Partnered Evaluation Initiative (PEI) enhances VA’s capacity to adopt and sustain an evidence-based practice that engages Veterans, their families, and caregivers in a group discussion to plan for future healthcare decisions if the Veteran becomes unable to communicate their preferences. We are partnering with 2 National Program Offices, 18 VISNs, and 75 VA facilities to develop tools and strategies to promote national dissemination efforts across VA.

What is Advance Care Planning via Group Visits?

An estimated 6.7 of 9.26 million Veterans enrolled in VHA do not have an Advance Directive (AD)^{1,2}.

Named a VA Diffusion of Excellence Initiative and Gold Status Practice, Advance Care Planning (ACP) via Group Visits (ACP-GV) is **more efficient** than traditional one-on-one ACP conversations in that Veterans can be served in a group by a clinical provider in the same length of time as one Veteran. ACP-GV seeks to engage and enable Veterans to make informed healthcare decisions and offers **improved choice and timeliness** to ACP discussions in medically underserved rural areas. Having an up-to-date AD, Veterans experience improved quality of life and communication with their families, caregivers, and healthcare professionals.



Since FY20, 955 trained providers and 75 VHA sites have implemented ACP-GV, delivering it to over 27,907 enrolled Veterans. Between FY17 and FY22, 34% of these Veterans created a new AD.



1. National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. (2022, March 31). Department of Veterans Affairs Statistics at a Glance. Department of Veterans Affairs. https://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/Quickfacts/Stats_at_a_glance_3_31_22.PDF
2. Rao, J. K., Anderson, L. A., Lin, F.-C., & Laux, J. P. (2014). Completion of Advance Directives Among U.S. Consumers. American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 46(1), 65–70. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2013.09.008>

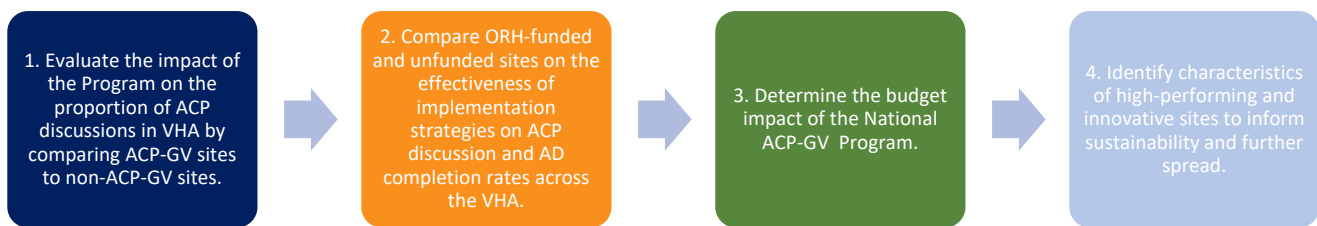
Implementation/Evaluation Strategies

This QUERI PEI seeks to evaluate and to determine best practices to facilitate a nationwide spread of one of the VA Diffusion of Excellence Initiatives, ACP-GV, which includes the cost saving- and process-oriented approach of hosting discussions regarding the topic of ACP and ADs among groups of Veterans.

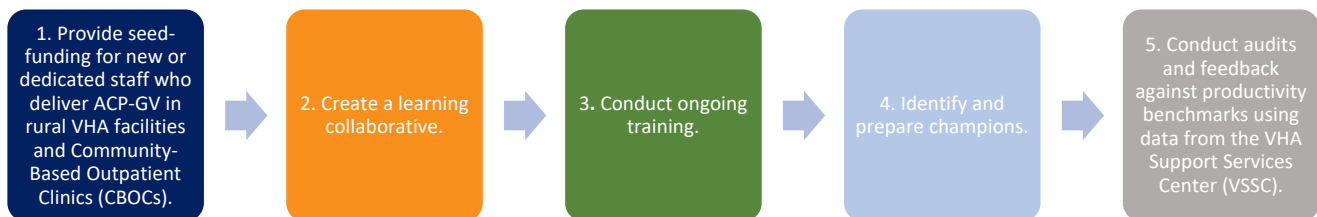
The main evaluation goal of this PEI is to determine the impact of funding staff positions to implement, sustain, and spread ACP-GV across the entire VHA.

The National ACP-GV Program is guided by 4 specific aims using 5 implementation strategies:

AIMS



STRATEGIES



Future Directions

We are expanding the evaluation beyond only Office of Rural Health-funded rural sites to examine the impact and effectiveness of the National ACP-GV Program to all VHA facilities. In addition, we are examining variation in implementation where a funded staff position who is hired or dedicated to ACP-GV (i.e., ORH-funded vs. unfunded) is the main difference among ACP-GV sites in the set of implementation strategies used to implement the program.

For more information, check out:
https://www.socialwork.va.gov/ACP_GV.asp

If you would like to learn more or partner with us, please contact:
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