

QUERI PARTNERED EVALUATION INITIATIVE: HAPPEN

VA



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

Hospital Acquired Pneumonia Prevention by Engaging Nurses (HAPPEN)

HAPPEN supports VA Priorities by *focusing on things that matter*—by reducing the risk of non-ventilator associated hospital-acquired pneumonia (**NV-HAP**); by improving Veterans’ quality of life and health; by modernizing systems/processes with a focus on preventive care; and by improving patient safety, access, and timeliness of service by reducing length of stay.

Improving patient safety through oral care

Hospital acquired pneumonia is the number one hospital acquired infection in the United States placing an estimated 35 million patients at risk annually. When consistently delivered, oral care targets bacterial multiplication and thus reduces the risk of NV-HAP. Facilities implementing HAPPEN have seen declines in hospital acquired pneumonia rates and associated health care costs. This partnership between QUERI and the Diffusion of Excellence is implementing repeatable, scalable methods for measuring successful adoption of HAPPEN and evaluating the quality of implementation at each facility and its impact on clinical and financial outcomes, identifying emerging trends, and discovering strategies to promote sustainment.



Patients who develop NV-HAP



8 times more likely to die, require days in an intensive care unit, mechanical ventilation, and broad-spectrum antibiotics

Length of stay up to 4 times longer than expected

50% of sepsis cases begin as pneumonia

Assisting Veterans with oral hygiene reduces risk



Oral hygiene reduces the risk of hospital acquired pneumonia saving lives and health care costs

Shortens length of stay and decreases discharge to nursing homes

Improves overall health and quality of life

HAPPEN Team Supports Sites

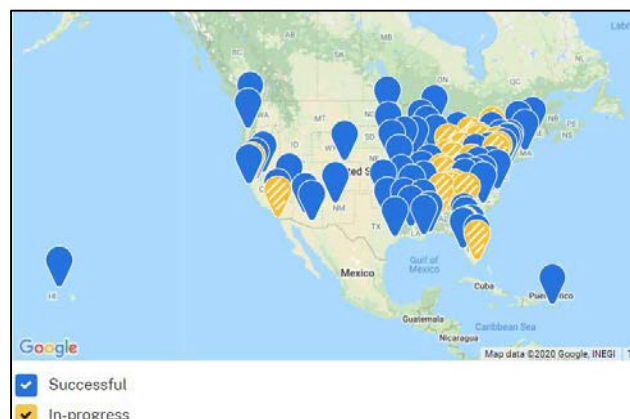
Guided by the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research, the partnered evaluation team is reviewing factors that influence adoption and implementation of HAPPEN and the RE-AIM framework is being used to evaluate strengths, weaknesses, reach, efficacy, and sustainment. Sites that do not meet HAPPEN implementation benchmarks receive higher intensity support to enhance their implementation efforts by providing consistent interactive and ongoing training and assessing readiness and motivation for change, developing practical strategies to improve implementation, encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration and subject matter expert involvement, monitoring of oral care provision and documentation (through the national oral care health factor report), and facilitating follow up telephone calls and site visits. The VHA Inpatient Evaluation Center (IPEC) is currently testing the new NV-HAP tracking system for use nationwide in FY21.

Operations Partners: VHA Innovation Ecosystem, Office of Discovery, Education, and Affiliated Networks (Diffusion of Excellence), VHA Office of Nursing Services, VHA Office of Dentistry, VHA Office of Rural Health.

Successful Implementation Across 84 VA Sites

With the support of the Diffusion of Excellence Initiative and our operations partners, **HAPPEN** is spreading across the nation. Over **300** medical surgical, pre-surgical, intensive care, inpatient mental health, spinal cord injury, oncology, hospice and palliative care, blind rehabilitation, and community living center (long-term care) units across **84** VA facilities are participating improving the care of more than **120,000** Veterans (FY20Q4).

- Developed national oral care implementation toolkit and other resources to provide step by step instructions and education for VA hospitals and long-term care facilities
- **7,745** VA staff have been trained in oral care provision to date
- QUERI supported evaluation of HAPPEN implementation and outcomes in progress including return on investment and cost savings calculation



For more information on promising evidence-based practices like HAPPEN, check out:
<https://marketplace.va.gov/practices/project-happen>

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