

QUERI SHAARK Partnered Evaluation

VA



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

Spreading Healthcare Access, Activities, Research and Knowledge (SHAARK)

The QUERI SHAARK Partnered Evaluation Initiative (PEI) helps to increase the impact of the VHA Diffusion of Excellence (DoE) program, which provides a national infrastructure for eliciting, implementing and diffusing promising VA practices. In partnership with the **VHA Innovation Ecosystem**, the QUERI SHAARK uses a mixed-methods approach, which has resulted in the production of **16 tools and data sources** for **59 DoE Promising Practices**.

Partnered Approach to Diffuse VA Innovations

Health systems consistently seek to ensure access to evidence-based care, addressing unique needs of individual patients while consistently meeting core clinical standards. VHA seeks to evolve into a **learning health system** to accelerate continuous learning by developing and **diffusing innovations**.

The VHA Innovation Ecosystem Diffusion of Excellence is a program which aims to embed innovation in the core fabric of the VHA, build a collaborative innovation community, and deliver a repeatable process for scaling innovations and evidence-based programs across VHA.

QUERI SHAARK helps DoE respond to the following key questions:

- How do we encourage meaningful engagement?
- How do leaders choose practices?
- What influences implementation success?
- What factors influence spread of practices?

Evaluation Successes

- Assessed **4 Shark Tank cohorts** from practice selection to sustainment.
- Conducted over **100** interviews with DoE and Implementing Facility Fellows on practice implementation
- Conducted **20** interviews with Medical Center Directors/executives on innovation adoption
- Created **Finalist Practice QuickView** and **Bid Wishlist** to facilitate earlier & more thorough practice review among “Shark” teams.

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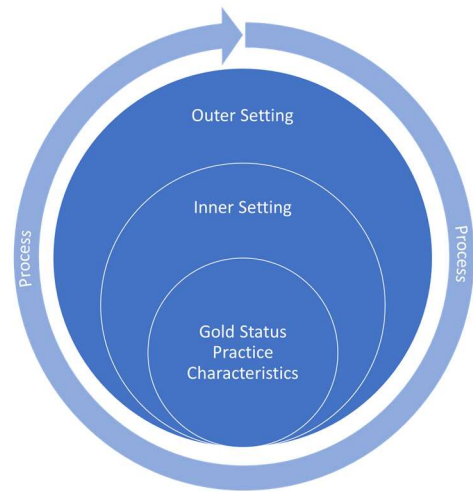
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Guiding Theories & Frameworks

QUERI SHAARK is a mixed-methods evaluation guided by implementation science frameworks and theories including the **Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR)**, **Theory of Organizational Readiness for Change**, and the **Rogers Diffusion of Innovation**. These theories and frameworks have been applied across the evaluation using the following methods:

- Quantitative, Secondary Analysis of Trends in DoE Participation and Practice Spread (combined with VA administrative and quality data)
- Semi-structured Qualitative Interviews with DoE Fellows, Implementing Facility Fellows, Support Staff, Contractors, & Medical Center Directors
- Structured DoE Event Observations & Focus Groups (e.g. Shark Tank Competition and Base Camp)
- Practice Sustainment Surveys
- Stakeholder and Event Participant Surveys



Impacting Sustainment & Spread of VA Promising Practices

To inform the growth and evolution of the DoE, the QUERI SHAARK has provided and supported data collection on and analyses of promising practices over 4 cohorts to date, resulting in:

- Improved DoE stakeholder engagement processes based on QUERI SHAARK observational data and recommendations
- DoE's adaptation of the Practice Quick View & Wish List for use in the 6th VHA Shark Tank Competition (October 2020)
- A reporting of 72% practice sustainment rate
- Generation of facility and practice-level data incorporated into Marketplace metrics and considerations for utilization among stakeholders

Future plans and next steps involve continued collaboration with the DoE to integrate and refine evaluation measures in the Diffusion Marketplace that will allow for improved utilization of the Marketplace among partners and stakeholders.

For more information, check out:
<https://www.queri.research.va.gov/>

If you would like to learn more or partner with us, please contact Program Coordinator, Brandolyn White at brandolyn.white@va.gov.

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