

# TeleWound Practice Partnered Evaluation Initiative

VA



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

Assess the impact of TeleWound Practice on Veteran care

The Telewound Practice Program (TWP) provides wound care to Veterans using telehealth technologies. The TWP was selected for regional level roll-out by VA's Undersecretary for Health as part of the **Diffusion of Excellence** Shark Tank competition. The objective of this evaluation is to assess the implementation of the TWP and its impact on clinical and healthcare system outcomes.

## Increasing Wound Care Access for Veterans

Chronic wounds (e.g., pressure injuries, diabetic foot ulcers) are a significant predictor of mortality among Veterans. Veterans who reside in rural areas often have difficulty accessing specialty wound care. An early pilot of the TWP suggests that delivering TeleWound care may reduce Veteran travel time/costs related to wound care and that Veterans who received TeleWound Care were satisfied with it. This promising early effort is the foundation for the regional roll-out of the TWP.

The TWP Partnered Evaluation Initiative is partnering with national, regional, and local health system leaders to evaluate the four VA facilities from VISN15 (VA Heartland Network) and their community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) that are participating in the initial implementation of the TWP.

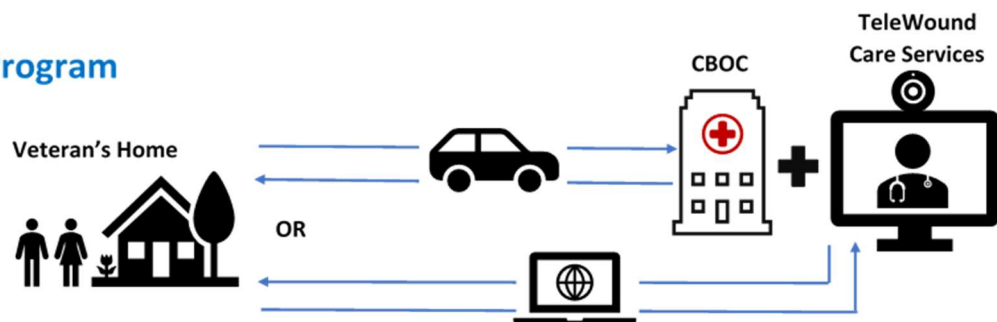
### Prior to TeleWound Program

Illustrates the long-distance patients travel from Veteran's home to VAMC



### After TeleWound Program

Illustrates the shorter distance patients travel from Veteran's home to CBOC



VA Quality Enhancement Research Initiative

# QUERI

Evidence into Practice

# Mixed-Methods Partnered Program Evaluation

QUERI investigators are using a mixed-methods assessment to evaluate the implementation of the TWP by:

- Surveys and interviews with healthcare team members and other key stakeholders regarding facilitators and barriers to implementation
- Surveys and interviews with Veterans to assess satisfaction and TWP experiences
- Administrative data analyses to examine the impact of the TWP reach (# of Veterans receiving TWP, clinical outcomes (admissions, amputations), Veteran travel burden/costs, and impact on system outcomes).

## Metrics to Assess the Impact of the TeleWound Practice Program



Number of Veterans receiving TeleWound care



Savings in travel time and distance due to TeleWound care



Fewer hospital admissions



Fewer amputations



Fewer missed appointments

## Anticipated Impacts

Evaluation of the TWP roll-out in VISN15 will identify barriers and solutions to TeleWound implementation in a small number of sites, that can be used to successfully roll-out the TWP nationally. It is expected that Veterans who receive TeleWound care will have clinical outcomes that are the same or better than those who receive only in-person care. It also is anticipated that use of the TWP will improve Veteran access to wound care while reducing burden and costs for Veterans.

**For more information, check out:**

<https://www.queri.research.va.gov>

**If you would like to learn more or partner with us, please contact our Program Coordinator, Marissa Gutkowski, at [marissa.gutkowski@va.gov](mailto:marissa.gutkowski@va.gov).**

**Principal Investigators:**

Frances M. Weaver, PhD

Bella Etingen, PhD

Hines, IL