



2013 – Funded first Collaborative Research to Enhance and Advance Transformation and Excellence ([CREATE](#)) to encourage collaboration among researchers to improve Veterans' health care

2015 – [Published](#), in the Federal Register, a plan to improve access to articles and data prepared by VA researchers while protecting Veterans' data and privacy

RECENT STUDIES: SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

- **Contamination of the skin and clothing of health care personnel** occurs frequently during removal of contaminated gloves or gowns, according to researchers at the Cleveland VA Medical Center. This contamination can lead to infection risk, and educational interventions are needed for the safety of both patients and health care workers, say the researchers. ([JAMA Internal Medicine](#), December 2015)
- **Telemedicine-based diabetes management improved outcomes** for Veterans with persistently poor diabetes control. A study of 50 Veterans with diabetes, conducted by Durham VA Medical Center and Duke University researchers, found that telemedicine led

to better diabetes management than clinic-based care only. ([Telemedicine Journal and e-Health](#), April 5, 2015)

- **Veterans who used both the VA health care system and a Medicare Advantage plan** had neither better nor worse health outcomes than Veterans who used only VA care, found researchers from several VA medical centers and their colleagues. Many Veterans use non-VA health to supplement their VA care, a practice that this study suggests does not result in fragmented care with poorer outcomes. ([Health Services Research](#), December 2015)

- **VA has developed the “No Preventable Harms” campaign** to reduce occurrences of preventable safety problems such as infections, medication-related errors, and blood clots. An initiative by experts within a seven-hospital Midwestern VA network led to a significant reduction in catheter-associated urinary tract infections in non-intensive care units. Regional collaborations such as this could be a valuable strategy to address important patient safety problems, say the researchers. ([American Journal of Infection Control](#), March 1, 2015)

- **Mobile phones and the Internet could help address the health care needs of homeless Veterans**, according to researchers with the VA Center for Healthcare Organization and Implementation Research in Bedford, Mass. The researchers found that a large percentage of homeless Veterans surveyed had mobile phones and access to the Internet, and nearly all were interested in receiving mobile reminders and outreach about their health care. ([Telemedicine Journal and e-Health](#), Sep. 3, 2014)

- **Diagnostic errors affect at least 1 in 20 U.S. adults**, found researchers with the Houston VA Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety. The researchers say that this evidence should encourage policymakers, health care organizations, and researchers to make efforts to measure and reduce diagnostic errors. ([BMJ Quality and Safety](#), April 17, 2014)

For more information on VA studies on health care delivery and other key topics relating to Veterans' health, please visit www.research.va.gov/topics

Health services researchers play a vital role in shaping the delivery of health care by studying access, cost, and quality.

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