Virtual Care CORE

December 2022 Newsletter

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Recent News from OCC and the VC CORE

Two Rapid RFA Funding Opportunities!

Just when we thought we were out, RFA season pulled us back in with two urgent opportunities, announced last week.

RFA PDFs are attached in the email with this newsletter and linked in our Opportunities table.

OCC Controlled Substances RFA (due date 12/12/2022):
VA is seeking modifications to 38 USC 1730C that would authorize covered VA health care professionals to prescribe controlled substance treatments through telehealth, in the absence of a prior in-person medical evaluation, when deemed medically necessary and in accordance with the standard of care.

Soliciting Priority Questions and Ideas for Caregiver Research

The Elizabeth Dole Center for Veteran and Caregiver Research is looking to help the VA develop a research agenda focused on caregiving. This agenda would identify gaps in our knowledge, policies, and programs that can best support caregivers of Veterans. If you would like to share your perspective by submitting a caregiver research question(s), click this link to the RedCap Survey.

As such, the Office of Connected Care is releasing a time-sensitive Request for Applications to conduct an evaluation of telehealth prescribing practices for controlled substances. Findings from this work will be used to inform the development of national standard requirements for VA health care providers when prescribing controlled substances through telehealth. This evaluation will require rapid turn-around and close communication with OCC leadership as VA seeks legal authority from Congress to implement this potential change in practice.

Shorter-term priorities for this work include understanding, retrospectively, tele-prescribing patterns for controlled substances. Longer-term priorities include understanding, prospectively, the outcomes associated with modifications to 38 USC 1730C. Specific objectives are included in the RFA PDF.

OCC is soliciting proposals with a budget of up to $250k for FY23. The deadline for applications is **December 12, 2022**, awardees should expect to be notified, funded, and able to begin work on a quick turnaround. Please see the PDF for all relevant details!

TeleHealth Research and Innovation for Veterans with Cancer (THRIVE) Pilot Project RFA:
The THRIVE team are requesting proposals for pilot studies that are focused on virtual care modalities for Veterans with cancer, with specific interests in social determinants of telehealth and health equity. Pilot studies can be at the facility, VISN or national level. They may be interventional or observational. The deadline for applications is **January 15, 2023**.

What can CORE do for You? A Quick Reminder
The VC CORE has been active for nearly 3 years now! As such, we have many new members who may not be aware of (and long-time members who may have lost track of) some of the services we promoted early in our tenure and are always happy to provide this network and VA at large. With that in mind, here is a quick reminder of what the VC CORE can do for you. We hope you will consider these modes of engaging with us!

- **Connections to other members of the network:** whether you are seeking a mentor (or mentee), a review of your aims page, abstract, or proposal, a collaborator for a project, or someone with specific expertise, VC CORE can help you find members of our network who are a good fit and facilitate a warm introduction!
- **Visibility and dissemination:** we want to amplify your voice and promote and recognize your work, particularly within VA. If you send us your journal articles, presentations, events, awards, etc., we are glad to share them via this newsletter, our Twitter feed, and ad-hoc emails to the network. Additionally – for early career investigators we are happy to share "spotlight" posts in order to introduce you to the greater VA VC Community!
- **Crowdsourcing of ideas, local practices, referrals and more:** We have placed "help wanted" style posts in our newsletter for dozens of network members seeking responses to surveys, ideas for research questions, and referrals for local hires. We've asked and gotten feedback that these receive a limited but highly relevant and targeted response rate!

We always welcome your blue-sky thoughts about other ways in which we can make this network greater than the sum of its parts! Please reach out to us with any ideas or specific requests at VHAVirtualCareCORE@va.gov.

Funding and Presentation Opportunities and Deadlines

Opportunities	Contact	Deadline
OCC Controlled Substances RFA: Office of Connected Care is releasing a time-sensitive Request for Applications to conduct an evaluation of telehealth prescribing practices for controlled substances.	View the RFA and submit your proposal on our Funding Opportunities Page; contact VHAVirtualCareCORE@va.gov with any questions	12/12/2022
Special Collection on Technology and Digital Innovations in Patient Experience: Journal of Patient Experience (JPX) is seeking papers which explore how rapid advances in technology and digital innovations represent important opportunities and challenges in understanding the field of healthcare experience, quality, and safety.	Special Collection on Technology and Digital Innovations in Patient Experience: Journal of Patient Experience: SAGE Journals (sagepub.com)	12/15/2022
TeleHealth Research and Innovation for Veterans with Cancer (THRIVE) Pilot RFA: The THRIVE team are requesting proposals for pilot studies that are focused on virtual care modalities for Veterans with cancer, with specific interests in social determinants of telehealth and health equity. Pilot studies can be at the facility, VISN or national level. They may be interventional or observational.	View the RFA on our Funding Opportunities Page; contact navid.dardashti@va.gov with any questions or to submit your proposal	1/15/2022

Recent Virtual Care Publications

- Wong, D.H., Bolton, R.E., Sitter, K.E., Vimalananda, V.G. Endocrinologists' experiences with telehealth: A qualitative study with implications for promoting sustained use. *Endocrine Practice, 11/2022.* doi:10.1016/j.eprac.2022.11.003

Upcoming Meetings and Cyberseminars

Title	Presenter(s)	Date/Time
Navigating VA Data Access: An Overview of the Process for Requesting Permission to Use VA Data	Linda Kok, MA	12/5/2022 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST
Tech into Care: Mobile Mental Health Lecture Series - Clinical Virtual Reality: A Brief Review of the Future	Greg Reger, PhD Albert "Skip" Rizzo, PhD	12/14/2022 12:00 – 1:00 PM EST
Tech into Care: Mobile Mental Health Lecture Series - PTSD Coach "in the Wild": Findings and Lessons Learned from Public Use Data	Haijing Hallenbeck, PhD	1/11/2023 12:00 – 1:00 PM EST
Save the Date: OCC/VC CORE Cyberseminar	Presenters TBD	1/11/2023 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST

Past Presentations and Cyberseminars

Title	Presenter(s)	Date/Time
VINCI Data Services: An Overview (va.gov)	Steven Oostema, MS	11/10/2022 2:00 – 3:00 PM EST
Strength of Evidence Checklist – Using Evidence to Justify Policy & Budget Decisions	Melissa Garrido, PhD Elsa Pearson Sites, MPH	11/9/2022 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST
Advancing Health Equity Through Inclusive Digital Health Measurement Product Development and Deployment	Madison Coffey, MPP(c) Amanda Purnell, PhD Yashoda Sharma, PhD	11/9/2022 12:00 – 1:00 PM EST
Navigating VA Data Sources: An Overview of Commonly Used Databases	Maria Souden, MSI, PhD	11/7/2022 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST
Current and Future Directions in QUERI	Melissa Braganza, MPH Amy Kilbourne, PhD, MPH	10/26/2022 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST
Describing the Tele-Mental Health Services Delivered Nationally by the Clinical Resource Hubs	Brad Felker, MD Lucinda Leung, MD, PhD, MPH	10/19/2022 12:00 – 1:00 PM EST

[Research Priorities and Takeaways from the Virtual Care State of the Art Conference in May 2022](#)	Samantha Connolly, PhD Jeydith Gutierrez, MD, MPH Taona Haderlein, PhD, MA Leonie Heyworth, MD, MPH Timothy Hogan, PhD Donna Zulman, MD, MS	10/4/2022 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST

Links to Resources

Telehealth
- [VHA Telehealth Services Website](#)
- [Telehealth Intranet Site](#)
- [VHA Mobile and Peripheral Devices for Facilities](#)

VA Mobile
- [VA Mobile | VA App Store](#)
- [New VA Mobile 'My App List' functionality/categories](#)
- [ANNIE Automated Texting System | SharePoint site](#)
- [VACO Mobile Mental Health & Technology | SharePoint site](#)
- [VA Mobile Health Practice Guide | SharePoint site](#)

MyHealtheVet
- [MyHealth*e*Vet | Portal Homepage](#)
- [MyHealth*e*Vet | VA Intranet Product Homepage](#)
- [My HealtheVet Statistics - My HealtheVet Product (va.gov)](#)
- [My HealtheVet Secure Messaging Reports Guide](#)

Data Reports, Measures, Definitions, and Training
- [VHA Reports and Measures Portal (RAMP)](#)
- [Reporting and Analytics Field Training (RAFT)](#)
- [VSSC – Connected Care, Telehealth, Call Centers](#)
- [Data Definitions for VSSC Data Cubes](#)

Patient Generated Health Data
- [Approved VA Policy on PGHD](#)
- [PGHD video for staff](#)

General Office of Connected Care
- [Connected Care Website](#)
- [Connected Care Outreach Toolkit](#)
- [Connected Care Academy](#) (VA Intranet Required)

Contact Information

- For any comments or questions about material in this newsletter or about the Virtual Care Consortium of Research, please email the CORE team at VHAVirtualCareCore@va.gov.
- Please let us know if you have news to share with the community! Email us and we will add it to the next newsletter.
- Finally, [follow us on Twitter](#) for regular, bird-sized bits of information!

The mission of the VA Virtual Care Consortium of Research is to facilitate research that evaluates and improves use of virtual care to enhance the accessibility, capacity and quality of VA health care and Veteran experience.