

## Evidence-based Synthesis Program (ESP) Governance Structure

### Program Description

HSR&D's Evidence-based Synthesis Program (ESP) was established to provide timely and accurate syntheses of targeted healthcare topics of particular importance to VA managers and policymakers, as they work to improve the health and healthcare of Veterans. The ESP disseminates these reports throughout VA.

HSR&D provides funding for four ESP Centers and each Center has an active VA affiliation. The ESP Centers generate evidence syntheses on important clinical practice topics, and these reports help:

- Develop clinical policies informed by evidence;
- Implementation of effective services to improve patient outcomes, and to support VA Clinical practice guidelines and performance measures; and
- Set the direction for future research to address gaps in clinical knowledge.

### Organizational Structure



### Health Systems Committee

The Health Systems Committee (HSC) membership is made up of VA leadership including Directors and Chief Officers from VISNs and VAMCs, and Directors of VACO Offices. The HSC provides the following input and guidance to the Steering Committee:

- Conduct a high-level review of the program to ensure the needs of key stakeholders are addressed;
- Provide guidance to the program as a whole for quality improvement;
- Provide guidance on how the program can have more of an impact; and

- Nominate appropriate staff members to serve on the ESP Steering Committee.

The ESP Director, HSR&D, or designee will report to the Health Systems Committee on an annual basis.

### Steering Committee Description

The Steering Committee membership is made up of participants from Patient Care Services (PCS), to include representatives from the VHA Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM), Medical Advisory Panel (MAP), Technology Assessment Program (TAP) program, and others named by the Chief PCS Officer; Office of Quality and Performance (OQP); Office of Nursing Services (ONS); HSR&D field-based investigators; VISN leadership; and others as designated appropriate by the HSC to ensure the needs of VA research and operations are met. The ESP Principal Investigators and synthesis team are not members of the Steering Committee; however, they are involved in the planning and conduct of the committee meetings.

The Steering Committee, as key stakeholders and customers of the program, will provide the following input and guidance to the ESP for the following programmatic activities, implementing the direction provided by the HSC:

- Help champion the program to increase nominations from the field, and drive the content of the program;
- Review the program to ensure the needs of key stakeholders are addressed;
- Guide the program’s quality improvement; and
- Guide the program to increase its impact.

This committee will meet bi-annually, with assignments taking place between meetings. The committee will be chaired by ESP Director, HSR&D.

### Coordinating Center

The Coordinating Center staffs the activities of the Steering Committee, develops and maintains program processes, monitors progress of individual projects, coordinates dissemination activities, identifies best practices across reports, creates collaborations with VA leadership to identify new ESP topics of importance to the health system, and assists stakeholders in navigating their participation in the ESP. The Coordinating Center facilitates a monthly call of the ESP Principal Investigators and HSR&D leadership.

