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Recent News from OCC and the VC CORE

Article Spotlight: *A New Equilibrium for Telemedicine* (link and citation in [Relevant Recent Publications](#))

An analysis by Ferguson et al. of clinical outpatient data in VHA found that telemedicine rates remain high following the COVID-19 pandemic. While rates of telephone-based care have decreased to pre-pandemic levels, video-based visits now make up 11% of all outpatient care, an increase of 2,300% compared with pre-pandemic levels. As of August 2023, telemedicine is used in 55% of all mental health visits (video: 35%, phone: 20%), 41% of all primary care visits (video: 4%, phone: 37%), and 21% of all subspecialty care (video: 4%, phone: 17%). The authors advise that future studies should consider evaluating quality, safety, and the impact of this new equilibrium on health outcomes. A brief research report is published in *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

The VC CORE/Palo Alto Ci2i is Hiring

Our VC CORE teammates in Palo Alto are seeking a full-time GS 9 or 11 Project Coordinator to support multiple research and quality improvement (QI) evaluation projects. In addition to working with the VC CORE on programmatic initiatives, this hire will work with Dr. Donna Zulman’s team in their research, which focuses on redesigning and evaluating health care interventions and eHealth technology for patients with complex medical, social, and behavioral needs. This is an excellent opportunity for an individual who is interested in gaining health services research skills and experience. For more details related to the role, please see the position description attached to the email with this newsletter. The VC CORE and Palo Alto Ci2i appreciate any referrals – please direct potential candidates to Cindie Slightam (cindie.slightam@va.gov) with the subject: Coordinator Position.

Funding and Dissemination Opportunities and Deadlines

Opportunities	Contact	Deadline
Check back next month!		

Recent Virtual Care Publications

- Ferguson JM, Wray CM, Van Campen J, Zulman DM. [A New Equilibrium for Telemedicine: Prevalence of In-Person, Video-Based, and Telephone-Based Care in the Veterans Health Administration, 2019–2023](#). *Ann Intern Med*. 2024 Jan 23.

Upcoming Virtual Care Conference Presentations

- Rauzi MR, Abbate LM, Christiansen CL, Forster JE, Stevens-Lapsley JE. Multicomponent Telerehabilitation Program for Older Veterans with Multimorbidity: A Randomized Controlled Feasibility Trial. Presented at the Marilyn Gossman Platform at: American Physical Therapy Association's Combined Sections Meeting; Boston Convention and Exposition Center, Boston, MA; February 16, 2024.
- Rauzi MR, Tran MK, Plew J, Stevens-Lapsley JE, Mealer ML, Nearing KA. Older Veterans' Experiences using Technology during a Multicomponent Telerehabilitation Program: An Embedded Qualitative Study. Presented at the Federal Physical Therapy Section of the American Physical Therapy Association at: American Physical Therapy Association's Combined Sections Meeting; Boston Convention and Exposition Center, Boston, MA; February 16, 2024.

Upcoming Presentations and Cyberseminars

Title	Presenter(s)	Date/Time (EST)
Tech into Care: Mobile Mental Health Lecture Series - Development and Preliminary Results of an App-Based Intervention for Anger and PTSD	Kirsten Dillon, PhD	February 14, 2024 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Understanding and Accessing the Office of Connected Care's Patient-Generated Health Data (PGHD) Database	Terry Newton, MD Stephanie Shimada, PhD Mark Zocchi, PhD, MPH	March 4, 2024 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Recent Presentations and Cyberseminars

Title	Presenter(s)	Date/Time
Reaching Rural Veterans: Applying Mind-Body Skills for Pain Using a Whole Health Telehealth Intervention (RAMP)	Diana Burgess, PhD Katherine E. Hadlandsmayth, PhD Roni Evans, DC, MS, PhD	January 9, 2024 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tech into Care: Mobile Mental Health Lecture Series - AI and PTSD: Applications of Large Language Models to Assessment and Treatment	Elizabeth Stade, PhD	January 10, 2024 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
A New Equilibrium for Telemedicine & an Evaluation of Concurrent Heart Failure Care	Jacqueline Ferguson, PhD Boback Ziaieian, MD	January 25, 2024 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Links to Resources

General Office of Connected Care

- [Office of Connected Care News SharePoint](#)
- [Connected Care Website](#)
- [Letter of Support Portal](#)
- [Connected Care Outreach Toolkit](#)
- [Connected Care Academy](#) (VA Intranet Required)

Telehealth

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

Patient Generated Health Data

- [Patient-Generated Health Data Community in Connected Care Academy](#)
- [Compatible Devices with Share My Health Data](#)
- [OCC PGHD Dashboards - Home](#)
- [Approved VA Policy on PGHD](#)
- [PGHD video for staff](#)

VA Mobile

- [VA Health Chat SharePoint](#)
- [Tech into Care SharePoint](#)
- [Developer Resources | 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](#)

MyHealthVet

- [MyHealthVet | Portal Homepage](#)
- [MyHealthVet | VA Intranet Product Homepage](#)
- [My HealthVet Statistics - My HealthVet Product \(va.gov\)](#)
- [My HealthVet Secure Messaging Reports Guide](#)

Data Reports, Measures, Definitions, and Training

- [Office of Connected Care Power BI Dashboard](#)
- [Virtual Health Resource Center Power BI Dashboard](#)
- [Virtual Care Scorecard in Power BI](#)
- [VA Pulse Analytics Mobile Utilization Dashboard](#)
- [VHA Reports and Measures Portal \(RAMP\)](#)
- [Reporting and Analytics Field Training \(RAFT\)](#)
- [VSSC – Connected Care, Telehealth, Call Centers](#)
- [Data Definitions for VSSC Data Cubes](#)

Virtual Care Best Practices

- [Virtual Care University \(VCU\)](#)
- [Virtual Care Best Practices Community in Connected Care Academy](#)
- [Virtual Health Resource Centers](#)
- [Connected Care Discussion Series SharePoint](#)
- [Let's Talk Virtual Care VLOG](#)
- [Office of Connected Care GPO site](#)
- [NCPTSD Mobile Mental Health GPO Site](#)

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.
