



Synthesizing evidence for VA leadership to improve the health and healthcare of Veterans

What is the ESP?

The VA Evidence Synthesis Program (ESP), established in 2007, helps VA fulfill its vision of functioning as a continuously "learning healthcare system". **We provide timely, targeted, and unbiased syntheses of the medical literature for VHA to translate into evidence-based clinical practice, policy, and research.**



What are the benefits of having the ESP conduct an evidence review for you?

The ESP helps VHA leaders make the best possible use of current knowledge.



QUALIFIED: ESP Center Directors are VA clinicians and recognized leaders in the field of research synthesis with close ties to the AHRQ Evidence-based Practice Center Program and Cochrane Collaboration.

HIGH IMPACT: ESP tackles high-priority issues such as opioid use, suicide prevention, and community care, and have informed reports to Congress, American College of Physicians guidelines, and VHA formularies.



INNOVATIVE: We go beyond "traditional" systematic review methods and integrate qualitative information from providers and patients and quantitative system data.

TIMELY: Requests are accepted year-round, with more urgent needs prioritized for our rapid products. Our product timeframes range from 1 week to 1 year.



Where can I find more information about the ESP?

ESP on the internet

www.hsrd.research.va.gov/publications/esp/

ESP on the intranet

vaww.hsrd.research.va.gov/publications/esp/reports.cfm

ESP on NLM

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK49060/

For more information, please contact:

Nicole L. Floyd, Deputy Director, ESP Coordinating Center
Portland VA Health Care System
3710 SW US Veterans Hospital Road, Mail Code: R&D 71, Portland, OR 97239
esp.cc@va.gov



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Health Services Research & Development Service

What evidence products does the ESP offer?

We have a [broad range of products](#) to address the various evidence needs of our operational partners. Systematic reviews are the gold standard in research, following the most rigorous methods and allowing for the most complete and defensible conclusions. ESP also offers other products that use more streamlined methods to assist with more time-sensitive needs.



What types of decision-maker needs can the ESP help address?



Identify effective practices for implementation

Systematic review identifying effective intervention components and implementation strategies.

[Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs in Inpatient Settings](#)



Policy "fire"

Rapid evidence brief

[Evidence Brief: Effects of Small Hospital Closure on Patient Health Outcomes](#)

[Evidence Brief: The Quality of Care Provided by Advanced Practice Nurses](#)



Clinical guideline development

Systematic review of existing evidence and reviews in coordination with a Clinical Practice Guidelines Working Group.

[Suicide Prevention Interventions and Referral/Follow-Up Services](#)



Identifying policy or program options

Evidence map product which included a visual overview of the distribution of evidence.

[Evidence Map of Acupuncture](#)

How can VA leadership work with the ESP?

When you submit a [topic nomination form](#), we will work with you to determine the appropriate research approach to address your questions of interest. If the topic meets our program's prioritization criteria and is selected by HSR&D leadership, then an ESP Center will be assigned to conduct the review. High-priority, time-sensitive needs will be undertaken at the Coordinating Center as capacity allows.