

# Dynamic Diffusion Network QUERI Program

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Quality Enhancement Research Initiative

Expanding evidence-based practice in diabetes and moral injury care

The Dynamic Diffusion Network (DDN) QUERI Program expands evidence-based practice among later adopters of innovations in diabetes and moral injury for affected Veterans. In partnership with the **VHA Innovation Ecosystem** and **VISN 19**, the DDN QUERI will use practical strategies to demonstrate evidence for successfully spreading complex clinical evidence-based practices beyond early adopters of innovation.

## Building Networks to Innovation Diffusion

Healthcare systems consistently seek to ensure access to evidence-based care to meet unique patient needs. Implementation science has frequently focused on organizations that are early adopters of **evidence-based practices (EBPs)**. While this prior work has been very important in understanding facilitators and barriers to implementing EBPs, more efforts are needed to identify practical strategies that can successfully foster implementation within **later adopting sites/facilities**. These later adopters often face suboptimal implementation conditions, and thus have unique challenges and needs.

In 2018, the VHA Innovation Ecosystem through the Diffusion of Excellence identified 2 promising practices out of Durham, NC for initial diffusion – **Advanced Comprehensive Diabetes Care (ACDC)** and **Mental Health/Chaplain-led Moral Injury Groups**.

The **DDN QUERI** is partnering with the **VHA Innovation Ecosystem** to build on the successes of these 2 practices by evaluating a practical implementation strategy known as the **Dynamic Diffusion Network** across **20 VA facilities**.



### WHAT IS ACDC & MORAL INJURY GROUPS?

**ACDC:** A nurse-administered telemedicine program for Veterans with advanced diabetes. The program uses standard telemonitoring services to deliver diabetes self-management support and clinician-guided medication management. *Slated to start late 2022.*

**Moral Injury Groups:** A network of mental health/chaplain-led sessions for Veterans experiencing moral injury. The network uses shared core components (e.g. co-facilitation, social trust, etc.) and psychotherapy principles to deliver care to affected Veterans.



# EPIS Framework: A Phased, Multi-level Approach to Implementation

Guided by the Exploration, Preparation, Implementation, Sustainment (EPIS) framework, the DDN QUERI will carry out hybrid type 3 randomized trials of ACDC and Moral Injury Groups. Each trial will compare the implementation strategy Dynamic Diffusion Network (DDN) for operationalizing EPIS to technical assistance among a group of later adopter sites.

The DDN QUERI will also carry out a mixed-methods evaluation using the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR) to examine factors influencing trial outcomes at each EPIS stage; and a budget impact analysis to establish the business case for the practices.

**Diagram 1. EPIS Framework**



## Dynamic Diffusion of Promising Practices Across VHA

Selected as promising practices by the Diffusion of Excellence and Office of Rural Health, ACDC and Moral Injury Groups have a history of reaching VA facilities across the nation, supporting sites in enhancing the delivery of care in diabetes and moral injury.

### ACDC...

- **ACDC has been implemented at 9 VA sites; first implementation occurred at the Asheville, NC VA in 2017.**
- **In a population of 230 Veterans, ACDC led to a mean HbA1c reduction of 1.43% at 6 months ( $p < 0.001$ ); much of this benefit persisted out to 18 months (1.08%,  $p < 0.001$ )**

### Moral Injury Groups...

- **To date, 7 VA sites have participated in the Moral Injury Groups DDN.**
- **In a sample of 64 Veterans who participated in groups in Oklahoma, PCL-5 scores decreased from an average of 61.9 to 31.5 over the duration of the group.**

If you would like to learn more or partner with us, please contact:

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