

Improving Veteran care and outcomes through rigorous partnered evaluation.

As a result of the 2018 Evidence Act (P.L. 115-435) Veterans Health Administration offices and programs are now required to demonstrate that their policies and budgets are supported by evidence and evaluation. EPEC-Vet will assist these VA operations offices by conducting rigorous and timely evaluations of high priority VA programs and policies.

AIMS:

- 1. Establish and sustain a robust evaluation center** that conducts at least two evaluations per year to address questions on the impacts of VA programs or policies on Veterans' care and outcomes.
- 2. To conduct rigorous evaluations** that use innovative methods, data collection and/or analytic strategies, including a set of common evaluation criteria (e.g., economic impact, equity, unintended consequences) across evaluations, and track common themes and lessons learned.
- 3. Employ state-of-the-art knowledge translation methods** to effectively disseminate evaluation results to key VA stakeholders and broader policy and research communities, and to facilitate the use of new evidence into VA policies, programs, and practice.

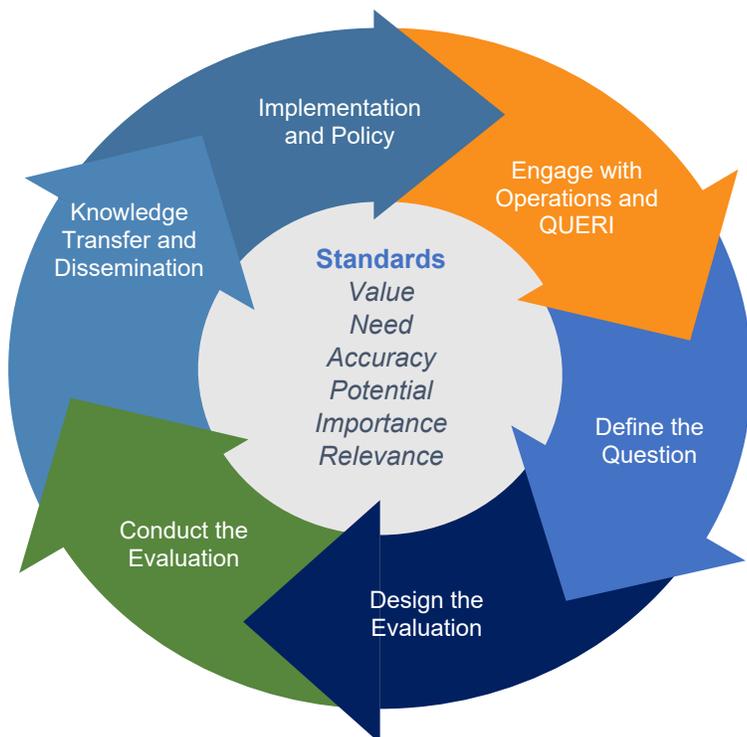


Figure 1. EPEC-Vet Conceptual Model

The EPEC-Vet conceptual model is modified from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) evaluation framework (Figure 1).¹ EPEC-Vet will use this model to engage with VA operations partners to define the program or question, design the evaluation using state-of-the-art research methods and study designs, conduct the evaluation while providing regular feedback to our partners, disseminate findings and publish results, and identify needs for implementation of programs or development of policies to match the evidence.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Framework for program evaluation in public health. *MMWR* 1999;48(No. RR-11)

Partners and Collaborators

EPEC-Vet includes a team of investigators with expertise in multiple methods areas:



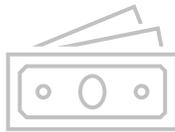
Biostatistics



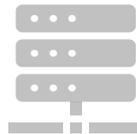
Qualitative Methods



Health Policy



Economics



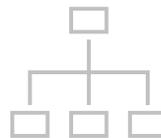
Databases



Community-based



Dissemination



Clinical Trials



Implementation

- Further, we have assembled a group of “experts on call” that represent expertise in several high priority areas and an advisory panel to oversee progress over time.
- We will utilize our CINCCCH Veteran Engagement Panel to review ideas and obtain their feedback for Veteran-centric input.
- We will also initiate contracts with one of our academic affiliates for additional expertise.
- Evaluation efforts will address high priority topics of importance to VA leadership by working closely with VA Operations, QUERI Central Office, and Partnered Evidence-based Policy Resource Center (PEPReC).

Anticipated Impacts



Enhance implementation efforts by identifying common factors that promote or inhibit implementation of policies.



Support the 2018 Evidence Act (P.L. 115-435) and facilitate changes to high priority VA programs and policies through evaluation and dissemination of findings to key VA stakeholders.



Improve Veteran care and outcomes through enhancement of VA programs and policies.

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