

POCUS QUERI

Partnered Evaluation Initiative

VA



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

Implementing a National Point-of-care Ultrasound Training Program

Point-of-care Ultrasound (POCUS) QUERI Partnered Evaluation Initiative is partnering with the VA Simulation Learning, Education and Research Network (SimLEARN) to train frontline VA providers to utilize clinical applications of POCUS in the VA's commitment to zero harm to patients. POCUS QUERI has trained over **300 VA providers** from over **38 VA medical centers** nationwide that use POCUS to benefit an estimated **130,000 veterans** annually.

Empowering VA Providers with Better Tools

POCUS use has been associated with many benefits, primarily reducing bedside procedure-related complications, ancillary diagnostic testing, and healthcare costs.

Certain procedural and diagnostic POCUS applications have evolved to become **standard of care** but are not universally used.

A well known barrier to POCUS use is the **limited number of trained providers**.

POCUS QUERI is evaluating the impact of **training frontline providers** to use POCUS for procedural and diagnostic applications with respect to:

- Provider skill acquisition and retention
- Frequency of POCUS use by providers & facilities
- Barriers & facilitators to POCUS use

Providers from selected facilities participated in an **immersive POCUS Training Course** at the VA SimLEARN National Simulation Center from 2016-2020. Development of regional courses, as well as virtual courses using novel tele-ultrasound software, are planned for the coming years.

VA providers that participate in the immersive POCUS training course have their **knowledge, skills, and frequency of use** assessed at baseline, immediately post-course, and 6-9 months post-course.

Benefits of POCUS



Bedside Procedures

- Improved access and expedited performance of bedside procedures
- Fewer procedure-related complications and associated costs
- Improved patient experience



Diagnostic Exams

- Fewer delays in diagnosing acute and urgent conditions
- Reduced ordering of ancillary diagnostic testing and associated costs
- Decreased exposure of patients to ionizing radiation

Leveraging Evidence-Based Strategies

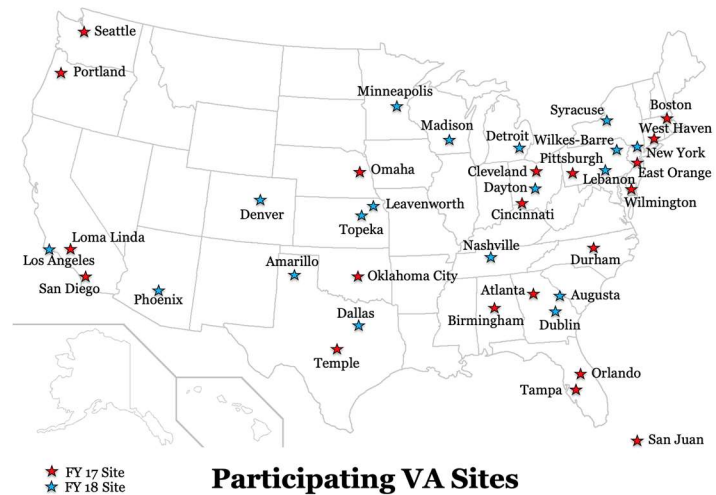
POCUS QUERI Partnered Evaluation Initiative follows **Replicating Effective Programs**, an established implementation strategy included in the QUERI Implementation Roadmap, that includes the following components:

- National assessment of current POCUS use, training needs, and barriers
- Facility assessment of readiness for POCUS implementation
- Provider participation in immersive hands-on training courses modeled after effective non-VA courses
- Supplementary resources including tool-kits, documentation templates, SharePoint site access, and educational materials

Improving Care Across the VA System

Since 2016, POCUS QUERI Partnered Evaluation Initiative has conducted **26 immersive, hands-on training courses** in collaboration with VA SimLEARN and trained more than **300 VA providers** from over **38 VA facilities**.

- VA providers and leadership **support POCUS use** but more providers need training.
- VA providers showed long-term **improvement in knowledge and skills and more frequent POCUS use in patient care** after attending the POCUS training course.
- Participating VA facilities had a **15% increase in POCUS usage** compared to 4% decrease among non-participating sites.
- Trained VA providers reported **73 fewer procedural complications** with an estimated cost savings of **\$1.8 million** in the past year.
- More than **130,000 Veterans** are benefiting from this program annually.



For more information, check out:
<https://www.queri.research.va.gov>

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