

# VHA Innovation Program eBook Quarterly Portfolio





## VHA Innovation Program Recent Highlights

### VHA Innovation Program Logo

The VHA Innovation Program revamped its logo! When you read anything regarding the Innovation Program, you'll now see the logo above. The new logo distinguishes our program and ensures readers know a project is proudly affiliated with the VHA Innovation Program. [Tell us what you think!](#)

### “Gold Standard” Innovation: eScreen Project

The Innovation Station is proud to recognize the VHA Innovation Program's eScreening project as one of these promising practices chosen as a “gold standard.” For the past three (3) years, Dr. Niloofar Afari and Innovation Coordinator, Clint Latimer, have led the eScreening project through VHA Innovations. eScreening was developed to streamline and simplify the process of screening and assessing Veterans for services and support related to mental health issues by using a computer-based self-assessment. The technology is a web-based, real-time, staff dashboard, which stores Progress Notes and Clinical Reminders in CPRS. It was piloted in VISN 22 and is currently being used at the Long Beach and San Diego VA medical centers. To view eScreening's Promising Practices submission video, click [here](#). For more information about the project and the future of eScreening, contact the Innovation Coordinator, [Clint Latimer](#).

### New Innovation Projects Launched

Every quarter, the Innovation Program will highlight a few of our newly launched projects. The following projects are new for this quarter:

1) **VACI/FitCause Move for Good**

VHA Innovation will soon launch a four month pilot program to improve Veterans overall health, including mental health. As part of this program, a “Move for Good” website dashboard is under development. In addition, Veterans will be given Jawbone “UP Move” wearable technology devices and will be surveyed monthly to gauge changes in their physical and emotional health. The four month pilot program will capitalize on Veteran social support, community involvement, and gamification/competition among participants from seven Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) chapters and VA Medical Centers.

2) **Whole Health & Wellness Resource Bundle**

In March 2016, VHA Innovation launched a “mini-competition” for seed money for wellness projects. In Phase 1, the “mini-competition” is being piloted in VISNs 2. Individual awards are awarded based on the applications submitted to the Bundle Innovation Manager (IM), and approved by the Bundle IM, VA Center for Innovation, VHA Innovation Program, and a group of whole health and wellness SMEs. We hope to launch other mini-competitions in upcoming years at more or possibly all VISNs. For more on the application process, rules and guidelines, visit the [Whole Health & Wellness Resource Bundle](#).

## Featured Innovator

### *Larry Carlson*



This quarter, the VHA Innovation Program is proud to feature Larry Carlson, an innovator behind the Telepathology innovation project. In 2014, Larry entered his idea for Telepathology in the Employee Innovation Competition (EIC). His idea was to develop a prototype that digitizes the process of ordering, completing and returning the results of pathology consults from a VA pathologist, offsite VA consult or specialist in a timely fashion. The prototype development is complete and pilot sites are now being identified for testing.

Telepathology accomplishes some of VA's major initiatives: improving quality of care, increasing efficiency and access, reducing inpatient length of stay, and increasing access to unique medical specialties. The effort and commitment Larry has shown during the lifecycle of this effort is the reason for its success thus far. The Innovation Program thanks him for all of his extra work to make the project succeed and for providing a new way for Veterans to experience the best care anywhere.

Larry Carlson received a BSEE in Electrical Engineering from Oregon State University. Larry began his tenure with the VA in the Facilities Graduate Engineer Training Program as a Biomedical Engineer Trainee, at the Portland VA Health Care System in 1982, and subsequently accepted the Biomedical Engineer position at the Spokane VA Medical Center the following year. In 2000, Larry accepted a position with VHA's Information Technology department as a VistA Imaging Implementation Manager in deploying VistA Imaging throughout VHA and Indian Health Service sites. Larry was part of the VistA Imaging team that developed and implemented VHA's Diabetic Teleretinal Screening Program. In 2009, Larry was reassigned to his current position as a project manager for VistA Imaging.



## This Quarter in Innovation

This quarter, the Innovation Program eBook features the following three projects: Maternity Tracker, Pharmacy Instructional Videos, and the Pressure Ulcer Resource Mobile Application.

### Maternity Tracker

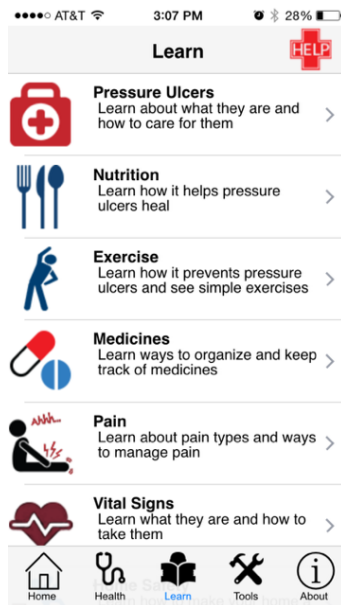
Maternity Tracker is a web-based dashboard that enables better screening, tracking, monitoring, and sharing of maternity data. Furthermore it improves access to prenatal care, complete postpartum care, and education information with an emphasis on care coordination in and outside of the VA.

### Pharmacy Instructional Videos

This project created a video playlist on VHA’s YouTube channel of demonstrations for proper patient drug administration techniques. Demos include proper administration techniques for ophthalmic preparations, subcutaneous insulin injections, subcutaneous low-molecular weight heparin injections, disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs, oral inhalers and more.

### Pressure Ulcer Resource Mobile Application

This pilot includes the research, design, construction, and prototype solution addressing problems associated with pressure ulcer prevention and pressure ulcer care. The mobile application provides users with information related to the way in which pressure ulcers can be prevented and treated. The application was developed for iOS and Android mobile devices.



Pressure Ulcer Resource Mobile Application Screenshot

## Maternity Tracker

### Description:

Women Veterans are the fastest growing group of new users of VA health services. Coordination of care and information sharing between all providers, including non-VA and VA providers, is critical to patient safety.

Understanding the changing trends in women Veterans seeking maternity benefits will help VHA improve the quality of reproductive care over time. Maternity Tracker allows for Maternity Care Coordinators (MCC) to track and monitor the antenatal and postnatal maternity care. New clinical note templates and templates for data exchange with non-VA providers were also developed and are scheduled for testing. The pilot testing is being conducted at the Salt Lake City (SLC) VA Medical Center (VAMC).

### Goals:

The Maternity Tracker project addresses the gaps in VistA for maternity tracking and monitoring through a combination of field tested enhancements for better screening, tracking, monitoring, and sharing of maternity data. Furthermore, it improves women Veteran's access to prenatal care, complete postpartum care, and education information with an emphasis on care coordination in and outside of the VA.

### Outcome/Result:

Currently, the Dashboard is being used, in real-time, to track 35 women Veterans at the SLC VAMC (30 pregnant, 5 postnatal). Future plans include a pilot expansion to Loma Linda VAMC and possibly one additional site within the next year.

VA has 146 MCCs that track approximately 20-40 pregnant Veterans at a time. When the Dashboard is available throughout the VA, MCCs will be able to track between 3,000-6,000 pregnant Veterans at one time; in essence 100% of the population of pregnant Veterans receiving VA primary and maternity care. The plan is to complete national deployment by 2018.

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

**[CONTACT THE INNOVATION COORDINATOR](#)**

### QUICK LOOK

*The percentage of female Veterans is rising. By 2018, roughly 11% of the Veteran population will be female.*

*Dr. Laurie Zephyrin, Director, Reproductive Health, is the key business sponsor.*

*This is a **strategic** portfolio innovation.*

### FAST FACTS

**BUSINESS OFFICE CONNECTION: WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES**

**INNOVATION COORDINATOR: ALLISON AMRHEIN**

**MULTIMEDIA LINK: [MATERNITY TRACKER SCREENSHOTS](#)**



## Pharmacy Instructional Videos

### Description:

In December 2015, nine videos were published on VHA's YouTube Channel. Videos include: proper administration technique for ophthalmic preparations, subcutaneous injections, Epinephrine auto-injections, nebulizer treatments, oral inhalers, and more. The videos show Veterans how to properly use devices so medications are delivered correctly. Providers can use these videos as a tool to help educate their patients.

### Goals:

Patient education and patient understanding are critical factors when it comes to managing and treating health issues. Improper patient technique and use of devices for the delivery of medications may be a barrier to effectively treating a given medical condition. Health care providers want to ensure their patients are correctly using the prescribed medications with the devices, and the videos serve as a tool for patient education. In addition, the videos provide patients with easy 24/7 access to refresher courses on how to properly use devices at a time that is convenient for them.

### Outcome/Result:

As of April 1, 2016, the videos have 8,045 views on VHA YouTube alone. The most watched video is "How to Give Yourself an Intramuscular Injection," with nearly 1,500 views. The Innovation Program is currently researching the financial possibility of creating additional videos for new video topics suggested by Pharmacy Benefits Management.

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

**[CONTACT THE INNOVATION COORDINATOR](#)**

### QUICK LOOK

*The VHA YouTube channel has 9,000 subscribers.*

*Spanish and English versions of the videos are available.*

*Innovation Collaboration with VHA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services and Employee Education System.*

### FAST FACTS

**BUSINESS OFFICE  
CONNECTION: PHARMACY  
BENEFITS MANAGEMENT**

**INNOVATION  
COORDINATOR: CHRIS  
CRUZ**

**MULTIMEDIA LINK: VISIT  
THE [PATIENT EDUCATION  
PLAYLIST](#)**

## Pressure Ulcer Resource Mobile Application

### Description:

Pressure ulcers are a major concern for individuals with limited mobility including older Veterans and Veterans that have sustained a spinal cord injury. Complications can include infection (local and systemic), cellulitis, osteomyelitis, pain, patient distress, pneumonia, amputations and death. Pressure ulcers can prolong hospital stays, reduce quality of life and cause significant emotional distress. The VA Pressure Ulcer Resource (PUR) mobile application (app) was developed to reduce pressure ulcer-related emotional distress and related complications, while improving access to specialty care and monitoring facilitated by the app. It also was created to increase peace of mind for at-risk Veterans and their caregivers.

### Goals:

The purpose of the VA PUR mobile app is to give at-risk Veterans and their caregivers help to improve self-management in order to prevent and treat pressure ulcers. The app includes educational content with graphics and videos as well as reminders for daily self-care tasks. The app also includes a portal to self-report wound data to VA in order to improve VA's monitoring ability for Veterans that live too far from specialty care for routine clinical monitoring.

### Outcome/Result:

Application development took place from September 2013 through January 2016. The application is currently in additional field testing at Tampa and Philadelphia for 60 days. The pilot includes approximately 120 at-risk Veterans at each location. Remediation of the application will start at the completion of field testing. The VHA Innovation Program, in coordination with Web and Mobile Services, is moving towards releasing the application in the VA Mobile App Store within the calendar year.

### WANT MORE INFORMATION?

### [CONTACT THE INNOVATION COORDINATOR](#)

### QUICK LOOK

VA PUR is from the **strategic** innovation portfolio.

Pressure ulcer complications can include infection (local and systemic), cellulitis, osteomyelitis, pain, patient distress, pneumonia, amputations and death.

Access to specialists can be difficult for Veterans that face unique barriers to care such as the **3.2 million Veterans** currently enrolled at the VA who live in rural locations.

### FAST FACTS

**BUSINESS OFFICE CONNECTION:** PATIENT CARE SERVICES

**INNOVATION COORDINATOR:** DEVIN HARRISON

**MULTIMEDIA LINK:** [VA PUR APP SCREENSHOTS](#)

