



Effective Health Care

Care for Women in the VA Medical Center

Next Steps

The nominator is interested in care of women within the VA Medical Center, including effective communication between providers and with patients.

While this is an important area, this topic was too broad given the limited information in the nomination about specific conditions or testing. There are ongoing efforts within the VA to address the concerns of the nominator around care of female VA users. Primary research is outside the purview of AHRQ's Effective Health Care Program, which is focused on developing evidence reviews to inform healthcare decision-making. No further activity will be undertaken on this topic.

Summary

Topic Name and Number: Care for Women in the VA Medical Center, #788

Date: 6/7/2018

- About 7% of VA users are women.[1]
- There are challenges to delivering comprehensive primary care in gender-sensitive environments that take account of women's experiences and complex healthcare needs.
- The quality of care for female VA users has lagged behind that of men. They typically require multiple visits within and outside the VA to achieve the level of care men obtain through a single on-site visit.[1]
- Ongoing efforts are aimed at challenges of implementing gender-sensitive care within the VA Medical Center.[2, 3]

References

1. Yano, E.M., S. Haskell, and P. Hayes, *Delivery of gender-sensitive comprehensive primary care to women veterans: implications for VA Patient Aligned Care Teams*. J Gen Intern Med, 2014. **29 Suppl 2**: p. S703-7.
2. Chuang, E., et al., *Challenges with Implementing a Patient-Centered Medical Home Model for Women Veterans*. Womens Health Issues, 2017. **27(2)**: p. 214-220.
3. Meredith, L.S., et al., *Attitudes, Practices, and Experiences with Implementing a Patient-Centered Medical Home for Women Veterans*. Womens Health Issues, 2017. **27(2)**: p. 221-227.