

Empowering Patients: My Health_eVet and VA Quality of Care

My Health_eVet



VA Quality of Care



As veterans learn about the quality measures, they are empowered to take an active role in their own health.

VA collects measures of healthcare quality at every VA facility, producing reports that compare individual VA Medical Centers with all other VA Medical Centers and Medicare data. The measures look at the percent of patients in a VA medical center who meet the measurement goals.



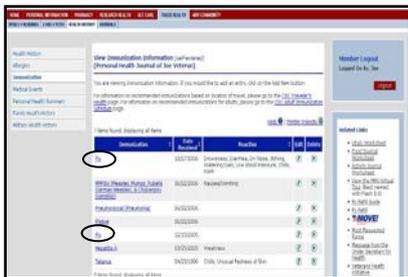
My Health_eVet collaborated with the Executive Order Transparency Project: VA Quality of Care. Using Quick Links on the My Health_eVet Home page, veterans can go to the VA Quality of Care site.



Using the My Health_eVet Track Health feature, veterans can self-enter their hemoglobin A1c, Low Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol, Blood Pressure, and Pulse Oximetry measures. Using the Immunizations feature, veterans can self-enter their flu shot. My Health_eVet provides veterans opportunities for self-management, including journals to track their own interventions.

The goal is to provide veterans information about the quality of healthcare in VA Medical Centers.

The measures selected for initial release focus on conditions that can be treated or prevented to reduce illness. Many veterans have diabetes, so three measures relate to diabetes care. Many veterans are admitted to the hospital for pneumonia, so a measure for pneumonia care is also included. Many more veterans are at risk for getting the flu.

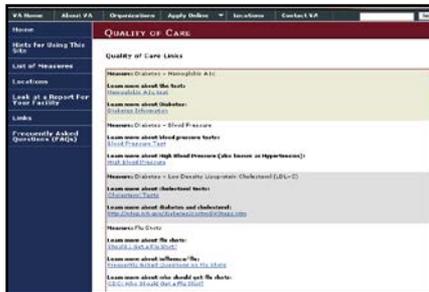
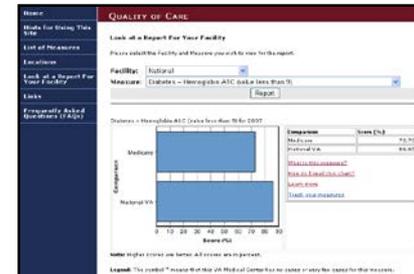


VA Measures of Quality of Care for Veterans with Diabetes

- Test to measure average daily blood sugar (Hemoglobin A1C)
- Test to measure "bad" cholesterol (Low Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol)
- Measurement of Blood Pressure (BP)

Other VA Measures of Quality of Care

- Oxygen assessment when admitted to the hospital for Pneumonia (Pulse Oximetry)
- Flu shot (Immunization)



Users of the Quality of Care site learn what the measures mean, how to read the charts, and about using My Health_eVet to record their own health measures. Currently, Quality of Care reports cover 42 VA hospitals in five VISNs. Eventually, reports will be available for all 21 VISNs. The next five measures are under development, and should be available in 2009.

Veterans can share self-entered information with their health care team. As patients learn more about VA Quality of Care and what they can do to improve their own health measures, they can use My Health_eVet as a basis for partnership with their healthcare team.