

Locally Initiated Projects (LIPs)

Supported Employment Therapy for VA Patients: Predictors and Outcomes of Program Participation

Team Members: Mark Ilgen, Brooke Pope, Felicia Kleinberg, Brittany Konarz

Funding: 5/1/2013-9/30/2013



Despite a consistent focus on suicide prevention within the Veterans Health Administration, rates of suicide in VHA patients remain higher than the general US population and virtually unchanged over the past 10 years. The Veterans Crisis Line is a potentially important tool to prevent suicidal behaviors but it is likely that many high-risk VHA patients are not using this resource. However, very little is known about the percent of high-risk patients who use the Veterans Crisis Line. The study is designed to document the percent of high-risk VHA patients who utilized the Veterans Crisis Line prior to a crisis, gather initial data on the perceptions of the Veterans Crisis Line among patients at high-risk for suicide, and evaluate the feasibility and initial response to a brief intervention designed to help increase utilization of the Veterans Crisis Line among high-risk patients.

Facilitating Use of the Veterans Crisis Line in High-Risk VHA Patients

Team Members: Kara Zivin, Kristen Abraham, Erin Miller, Matheos Yosef

Funding: 4/1/2013-9/30/2013



The VA is a leader in implementing compensated work therapy programs (CWT) including incentive therapy, transitional work experience and supported employment programs to assist Veterans with mental disorders in gaining meaningful employment. Data on the outcomes of the CWT programs, such as healthcare utilization and costs of care before, during and after CWT program discharge is not routinely collected. We have conducted preliminary analyses of CWT utilization by psychiatric diagnosis using VA administrative data, finding very low rates of CWT utilization. This LIP funding was used to generate pilot data for a January 2013 VA RRP application designed to improve employment outcomes among VA patients with mental disorders.

Prevalence and Patterns of PICC-Associated Bloodstream Infection: A Retrospective Study of Veterans

Team Members: Vineet Chopra, Sarah Krein, David Ratz, Latoya Kuhn, Sanjay Saint

Funding: 1/1/2013-12/31/2013



Veterans across the United States require reliable intravenous access during and beyond periods of hospitalization. The increasing use of peripherally inserted central catheters, or "PICCs", has helped achieve this important goal. However, PICCs are not without risks and are associated with adverse outcomes, including central-line associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI). This LIP funding is being used to retrospectively analyze Veterans who have had PICCs placed at the Ann Arbor VA since 2009. Data regarding PICC type, indication for placement, duration of insertion, and PICC-related infection has been secured for this study.

