The VA Center for Clinical Management Research in Ann Arbor, Michigan, combines the expertise of clinicians and scientists from the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System and the University of Michigan, and partners with clinical leaders and managers, to implement and evaluate different ways to make health care safer, more effective, and more affordable.

In all of our work, we strive to translate our research into real-world health practice.

Innovative Research That Transforms Health Practice in the Real World

HOW can people with diabetes who live in a rural area better manage their condition without frequent, costly doctor visits?

HOW can we make inpatient care safer and more efficient?

HOW can a health system prevent suicide among Veterans?

We’re answering these questions every day through innovative research.
One Center With Many Solutions

Our Center has developed innovative programs for helping patients with serious mental illness, including those who have depression, alcohol and drug misuse problems, or chronic medical diagnoses. Our research helps to improve evidence-based treatments for their care, including pain management, behavioral health, and family care. We are developing research that provides safe and effective care, including:

- A program that helps those with substance use disorder and chronic pain to manage these problems without causing drugs or alcohol.
- A program to identify women with mental illness who are at highest risk for suicide, and ways to intervene to prevent suicide.
- A decision tool to help women with breast cancer make choices about therapeutic options, and help men with prostate cancer choose a treatment plan.
- A new way to obtain patient preferences for colorectal cancer screening in order to enhance the rate of colorectal cancer screening among patients who need it.

Innovative Research, Practical Solutions, Improved Health Care

One Health care, by its very nature, requires teamwork. We conduct our research in this collaborative tradition. A team of experts works together with doctors, nurses, and managers to test innovative solutions to health care challenges and to translate research into meaningful strategies and best practices.

Our partners include experts and leaders at our local VA, regional VA network (VISN 11), national VA offices, the University of Michigan Health System, and other local and national health care organizations. Our scientists focus their research in six critical areas central to enhancing quality and value in health care:

- Improving Chronic Disease Self-Management
- Promoting Patient Centered and Personalized Care
- Enhancing Patient Safety
- Improving Communication and Decision-Making
- Preventing Disease and Disability
- Promoting Personalized Care

How can we help patients manage their conditions between doctor appointments, to keep them healthy and avoid costly hospital stays and emergency department visits? We are developing a variety of approaches, such as involving pain and caregivers to help patients better manage their conditions through low-cost, technology-based interventions, for example:

- A service that combines group self-management training with telephonic support for Veterans with diabetes has been shown to improve glycemic control among diabetic patients.
- The CarePartners program enhances patient satisfaction and self-management by using the internet and automated telephone calls to help patients manage diabetes, depression, and congestive heart failure, with support from caregivers.

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