

TEMPO

TelePain Evaluation, Metrics, & Pain Outcomes QUERI

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Quality Enhancement Research Initiative

Evaluating the national implementation of virtual interdisciplinary pain care teams

TEMPO QUERI enhances VA’s ability to improve access to high-quality chronic pain care through telehealth. In partnership with the **National Pain Management, Opioid Safety, and Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Office**, the goal of TEMPO QUERI is to evaluate the clinical impact and costs of implementing virtual interdisciplinary pain teams (**TelePain**) enterprise-wide that deliver evidence-based pain care.

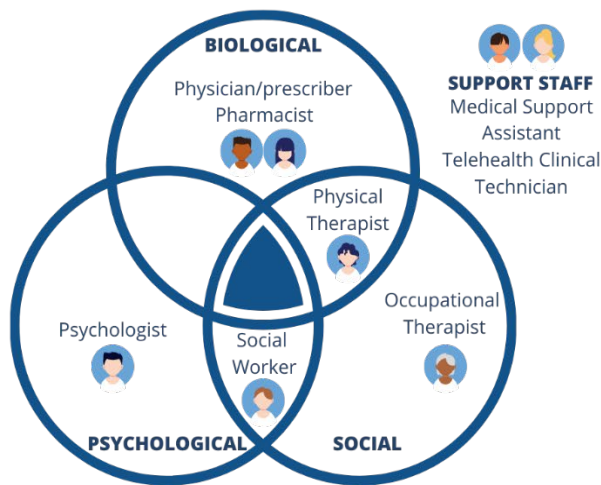
Improving Chronic Pain Care Access and Quality

Chronic pain is a leading cause of disability and a major contributor to the opioid and suicide epidemics. Pain-related conditions are the **most common service-connected disabilities** in VA. **More than 10%** of Veterans have high-impact chronic pain that limits their ability to participate in work, recreation, and self-care activities.

Interdisciplinary pain management is the standard of care for high-impact chronic pain, but **nearly 1 in 3 VA facilities** lack the staffing and infrastructure for interdisciplinary pain teams. Telehealth helps close this access gap by bringing virtual pain teams (TelePain) to low-resource areas.

TEMPO QUERI is working with national program offices and regional and local health system leaders to support high-quality implementation of TelePain. TEMPO QUERI provides ongoing evaluation to assess whether TelePain is benefiting Veterans and VHA as intended and will provide data for course correction, if needed.

Evidence-based Interdisciplinary Pain Management Team Evidence-based Interdisciplinary Pain Management Services



Medication Management



Active Biopsychosocial Treatment



Physical Therapy



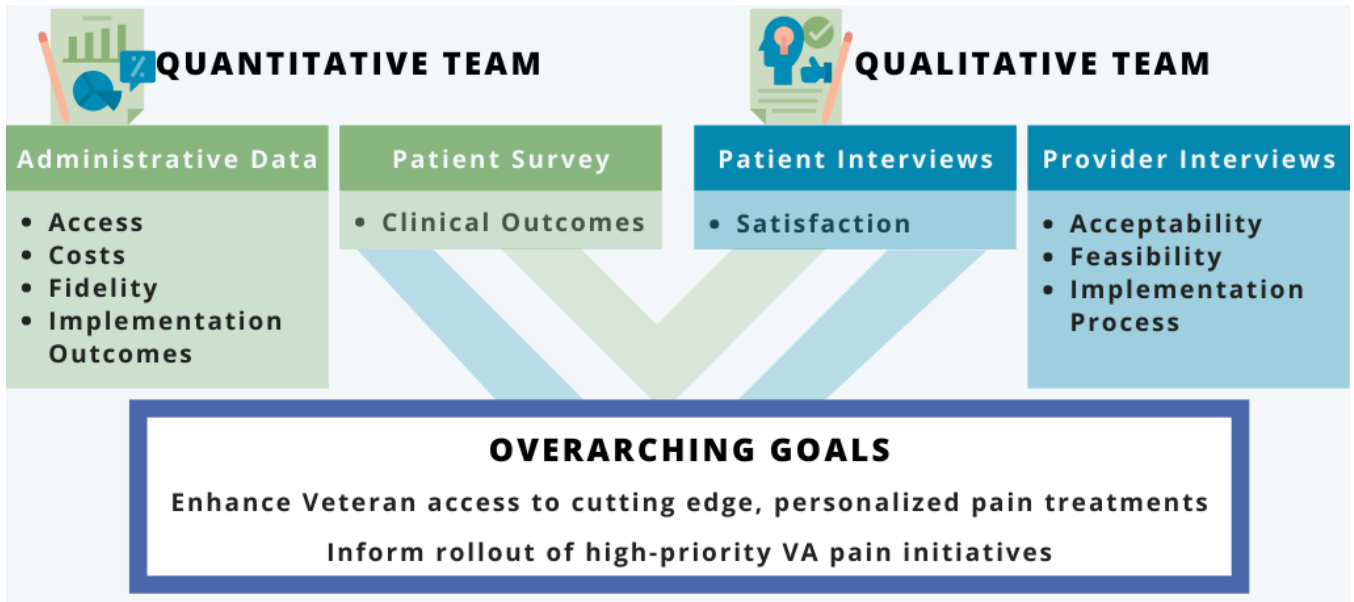
Pain Procedure Assessment (eg. spinal cord stimulators)



TelePain Evaluation, Metrics, & Pain Outcomes
QUERI Partnered Evaluation Initiative

Evaluation Strategies

TEMPO QUERI will use a variety of data sources—including administrative data from the VA electronic health record, a patient survey, and interviews with patients and providers—to evaluate the impact of implementing TelePain.



Anticipated Impacts



Anticipated Impact:

Increase use of interdisciplinary pain management, particularly among rural Veterans.



Anticipated Impact:

Reduce reliance on low-value pain services and community pain care.



Product:

TelePain Implementation Toolkit: includes implementation guide, templates, workshop, stakeholder engagement recommendations, research summaries, FAQs, & more.

For more information, check out:
<https://www.queri.research.va.gov/centers/pain.cfm>

If you would like to learn more or partner with us, please contact the TEMPO distribution group at VHATEMPOQUERI@va.gov.

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