



Implementation of treatment decisions initiative promotes personalized, patient-driven care for Veterans with serious illness

Dr. Anne Sales' QUERI work with a team led by Drs. Cari Levy and Mary Ersek has supported uptake of Life-Sustaining Treatment Decisions for Veterans at 11 intervention sites.

BACKGROUND

Preferences Elicited and Respected for Seriously Ill Veterans through Enhanced Decision-Making (PERSIVED) QUERI Program

Aims to prevent unwanted, burdensome treatments by consistently **eliciting preferences for care** from seriously ill Veterans who are receiving home-based primary care or VA-paid community nursing home services.

Life-Sustaining Treatment Decisions Initiative (LSTDI)

National VHA initiative that enables and requires practitioners to initiate proactive Goals of Care conversations with Veterans at high risk of a life-threatening clinical event, and to **document goals of care and LST decisions** in a standardized template in the electronic healthcare record.

PAST WORK

Supporting LSTDI implementation in Community Living Centers (CLC)

In the initial QUERI-funded program, we supported a **dramatic increase** in the number of Veterans living in CLCs who had Goals of Care conversations documented through the LSTDI CPRS template.

Pre-Implementation (2017)



Post-Implementation (2020)

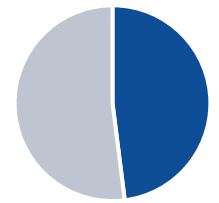


CURRENT WORK

Supporting LSTDI implementation in Home Based Primary Care (HBPC)

Among the 11 HPBC programs enrolled in PERSIVED:

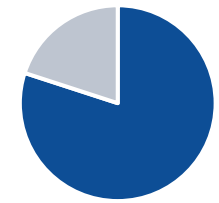
Before Implementation (2020)



<50%
of Veterans had **documented Goals of Care conversations**

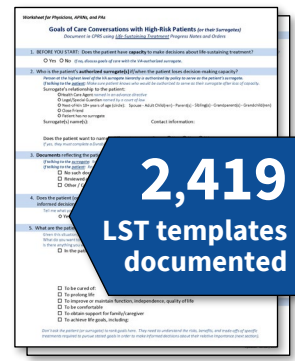


With Implementation (2023)



70-90%
of Veterans had **documented Goals of Care conversations**

Life-Sustaining Treatment (LST) template completion since enrollment:



7 sites
with completion rates of **85% or higher**

SPREAD

The PERSIVED team submitted the LSTDI to the **Diffusion Marketplace**, and it was selected as one of 75 innovations to be included in the public launch.



POLICY IMPACT

National HBPC leadership asked the PERSIVED team for their recommendation on the time frame for LST templates to be completed for Veterans in HBPC, to inform national policy.



RESEARCH IMPACT

The PERSIVED team created the **VA LSTDI Research Interest Group** to bring together operations leaders, analysts, and investigators/evaluators to uncover opportunities for collaboration, and to create a space for sharing information about research in the field.

