

Operationalizing Care Delivery Models that Promote Equity and High-Quality Cancer Care in the Veterans Health Administration

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Presentation Overview

- Background
- National TeleOncology program
- Close to Me
- Clinical Cancer Genetics Service / National Precision Oncology Program
- NAVIGATE (NCI and VA Interagency Group to Accelerate Trials Enrollment)

Background

- Largest integrated health care system with over 1,300 health care facilities
- Serves about 9 million enrolled Veterans yearly
- About 50,000 cancer cases among Veterans annually



Health Equity at VA

- Building a diverse and inclusive workforce
- Identify social risks and needs among Veterans and connect them with resources
- Provide tools to advance equity
 - Data and dashboards – for example we have a dashboard that includes select quality measures, including for cancer screening, and allows data to be stratified by race/ethnicity, sex/gender, type of locality, and poverty level.
 - Support equity-guided quality improvement
 - Awareness and education materials

Cancer Equity at VA

- Leveraging an equal access system to improve cancer outcomes
- Screening and detection programs
 - Accomplishments
 - Areas for improvement
- Comprehensive, tailored tobacco cessation services and access

- Provides access to top rated oncologists through telehealth
- Currently at 60 VA sites and growing
- Improves rural access to a wide array of services such as virtual tumor boards and other cancer services



Close to Me

- Novel chemotherapy delivery program and innovation
- Aims to reduce travel time for Veterans, improve VA care continuity, and increase access points to Veteran-centric care by providing cancer therapy services at three types of locations: community-based outpatient clinics (CBOC), patient homes, and mobile infusion units
- Has enrolled over 314 Veterans and has saved 100,000 Veteran miles driven



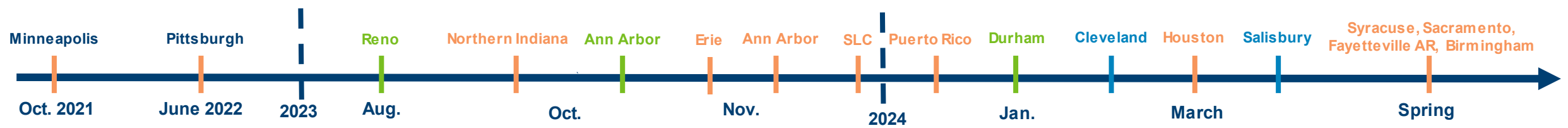
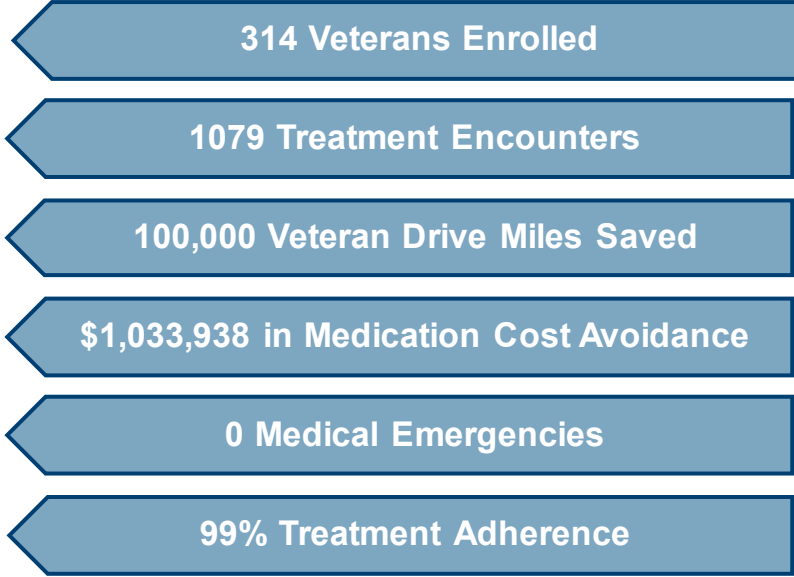
Close to Me Overview

CBOC Infusion Model
Treatments compounded at VAMC Pharmacy and transported to CBOC, oncology-trained RNs administer infusions/injections to patients

Home Care
Treatments administered at home by oncology-trained RNs or patient/caregiver, with appropriate training

Clinic Build
Establishes dedicated clinic space for infusions at existing CBOCs or Health Care Centers (HCC)

Compounding Expansion
Increases or establishes VAMCs ability to compound hazardous and non-hazardous sterile compounds



- Germline genetic testing for hereditary cancer conditions and personalized cancer risks through the Clinical Cancer Genetics Service
 - Available at 71 sites so far
 - Veterans have access to expedited germline testing and in some case reduced treatment wait times due to germline testing
- National Precision Oncology Program (NPOP)
 - Created in 2016 in response to Cancer Moonshot Initiative
 - Used for multiple cancer types
 - More than 38,000 Veterans have had their care guided by NPOP-sponsored molecular testing

NAVIGATE

- NCI and VA Interagency Group to Accelerate Trials Enrollment (NAVIGATE)
- Increases the number of VA Medical Centers participating in and conducting NCI-supported cancer clinical trials
- Navigation to help identify potential studies for Veterans

Summary

- VHA has successes in reducing cancer screening and care disparities and uses data to help guide where it can focus areas for improvement where disparities persist
- Exciting new programs extend VA's reach to rural areas to offer Veterans state-of-the-art care in patient-centered contexts
- Achieving health equity is a journey and the Veteran voice is central to informing the path to equitable, high quality outcomes



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