The HSR&D Virtual Care Consortium of Research (VC CORE), funded in June 2020, collaborates with VA leadership and stakeholders in VA's Office of Connected Care (OCC) to shape virtual care policy for Veterans. This document summarizes impacts from this partnership between 2020-2022.

Exemplary Impacts on Clinical Operations

Video-Based Pre-Op Care: Best Practices

- **OCC and VA's National Anesthesia Program Office** identified a lack of evidence regarding the **efficacy of VA Video Connect (VVC) compared to traditional methods of pre-op evaluation** (face to face (F2F), telephone, telehealth, and day of surgery). To understand the value of virtual, preoperative visits:
  - The VC CORE administered a Request for Applications (RFA) to its network of investigators and organized review sessions involving representatives from relevant VA program offices.
  - The selected team evaluated the utilization of virtual pre-anesthesia nationally, comparing it against accepted modes (F2F, telephone, day of surgery). They completed surveys and focus groups with VA staff to identify barriers and facilitators to implementation of VVC pre-op visits.
  - The team found that VVC was comparable to conventional modes of pre-op evaluation.
  - **This led to the development of enterprise-wide goals for VVC pre-anesthesia encounters which are being prepared for release.**

Virtual Vital Sign Assessment: Readiness to Deploy

- In anticipation of **forthcoming FDA approval of state-of-the-art vital sign assessment via smartphone video**, OCC requested an evaluation of VA's readiness for this tool. The VC CORE identified an evaluation team to examine Veteran and provider perceptions regarding usability and willingness to use this new technology in VVC encounters.

- **Evaluation activities are currently ongoing, and findings will guide the enterprise-wide deployment schedule for this state-of-the-art tool.**

Advancing Evidence on Effectiveness, Quality, and Safety of Virtual Care

Virtual Care State of the Art Conference (SOTA) Meeting in May 2022.
- The VC SOTA convened 50 key VA and non-VA researchers, operational partners, and leaders including staff from VA's OCC, the Office of Rural Health, Office of Health Equity, and the National Center for PTSD to develop priority areas for VC research across VA.

Evidence to Inform Congressional Policy
- VC CORE network investigators and funded projects have provided input and data to support Congressional Actions.

Funding for Partnered Evaluation Projects Focused on VA Virtual Care
- In addition to the two case studies outlined above, the VC CORE-OCC Partnership has yielded **4 nationwide funding solicitations (totaling $6.4M from OCC)** which were disseminated through the VC CORE network.
  - FY20: OCC funded **6 evaluation projects totaling $800K** focused on addressing VC operational needs following the COVID-19 outbreak.
  - FY21: OCC funded **11 evaluation projects totaling $1.8M** focused on evaluating novel, high-priority OCC technologies.
  - FY22: OCC funded **3 new evaluation projects totaling $320K** focused on evaluating patient generated health data (PGHD) and My VA Images. Funding continued for **8 FY21 OCC projects, totaling $1.23M**.
  - FY23: Approximately **$1M is available for new projects addressing priorities developed as part of the May 2022 SOTA Conference.** Applications are currently being accepted. Funding will continue for **7 ongoing OCC projects, totaling approximately $1M**.
- Funded projects spanned a wide breadth of clinical and health services focus areas (e.g., cardiac rehab, sleep medicine, gastrointestinal disease, diabetes, obesity, amputee rehab, caregiver support, health equity).

Virtual Care Portfolio Management
- The VC CORE conducted and maintains a portfolio review of VA virtual care studies and quality improvement evaluations (including over 600 HSR&D and operations-funded projects) to inform VA policy and operations activities.
- The VC CORE has provided consultations to many investigative teams on their aims, methodology, and networking with operational partners.