

# Medication Safety (MedSafe) QUERI Program

VA



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

## Optimizing Appropriate Use of Medications for Veterans

Medication Safety (MedSafe) QUERI Program implements and evaluates interventions to optimize medication safety for Veterans. We focus on increasing the use of high value medications, decreasing low-value medications, improving the safety of high-risk medications use and working with national and regional VA operational partners to implement sustainable quality improvement initiatives.

## Addressing Needs of Operational Partners

**National Partner:** In collaboration with the **VA Office Pharmacy Benefits Management Service, MedSafe QUERI Program** has been evaluating and tracking medication safety for optimization and then implementation at **all VA sites** regarding:

- **Clinical/Safety Pharmacy Dashboards** to optimize managed care.
- **Joint Patient Safety Reporting** system for adverse events which occur from medication errors.
- **VA Adverse Drug Event Reporting System Survey** for adverse drug events of significant importance.

**Regional Partner: VISN 21 Pharmacy Benefits Management Service.** For use in Primary Care we developed a new decision support tool **MedSafe Clinical Decision Support (CDS) system:**

- Identifies at-risk Veterans not meeting VA performance measures.
- Provides specific recommendations for Diabetes Type 2, Chronic Kidney Disease and Hypertension.
- Implemented at two VA sites.

### Evidence-Based Practices

National evaluation of a web application developed by the **VA Office of Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) Service** called Medication Use Evaluation Tracker:

- Identifies **at-risk Veterans** on monthly/quarterly basis.
- At **all 146** VA sites.

This evaluation confirmed interest in PBM/VAMedSAFE for the **development of FIVE National Dashboards** as population health management tools.



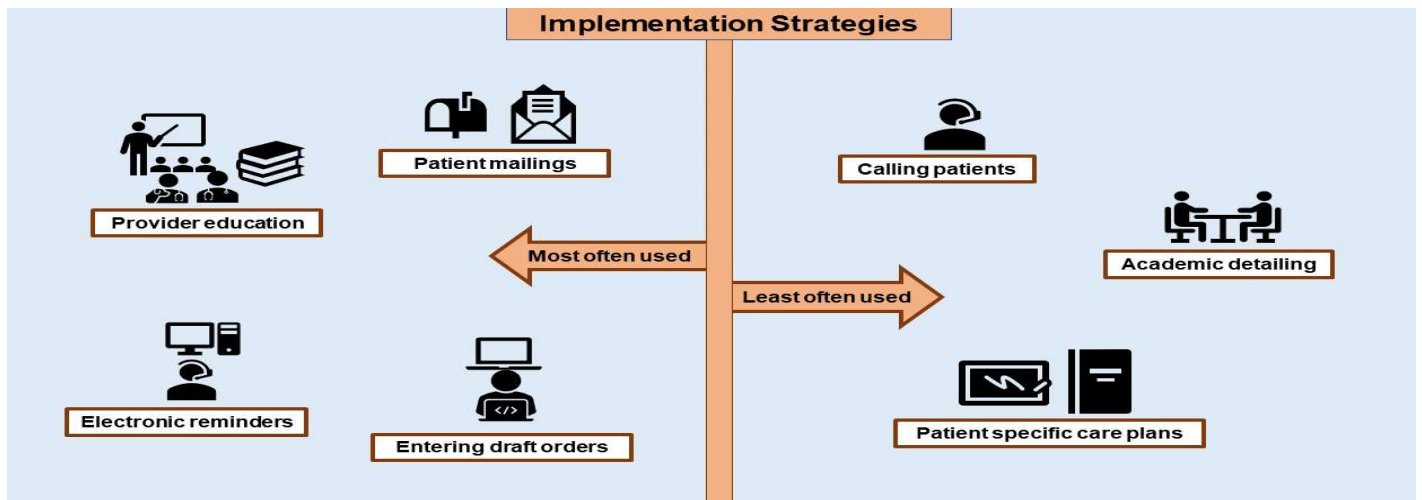
**ONE National Dashboard** developed:

- 1) **Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOAC) Dashboard:**
  - Identifies **at-risk Veterans** with regular data updates and daily accessibility to all VA clinicians.
  - At **all 146** VA sites.
  - As of December 2020:
    - **Documented use at 84%** of all VA sites (N=122)
    - **1,500 VA staff** trained and/or use currently
    - **174,000 Veterans** served

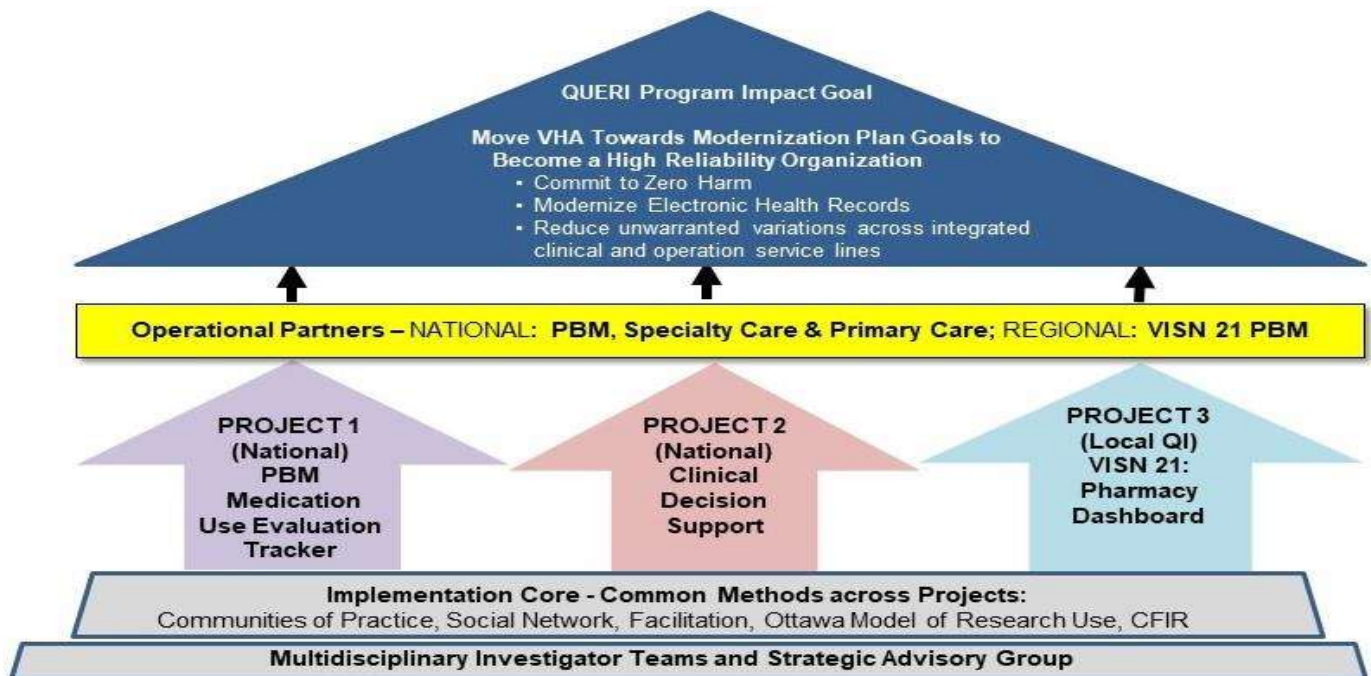
**FOUR National Dashboards** being developed:

- 2) Proton Pump Inhibitors Dashboard
- 3) AntiCD20 Antibody Dashboard
- 4) Direct-Acting Antivirals-Hepatitis B Monitoring/ Re-activation Dashboard
- 5) GI-Azathioprine/6-Mercaptopurine Dashboard

# Implementation Strategies to Optimize Medication Management: Strategies Used Most/Least Often by Pharmacists Across All VA Sites



## Alignment of Impact Goals with VHA Priorities



For more information, check out:  
<https://www.queri.research.va.gov/programs/meds/afe.cfm>

If you would like to learn more or partner with us, please contact our Program Manager Anju Sahay, PhD at [anju.sahay@va.gov](mailto:anju.sahay@va.gov)

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