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HSR&D's Focus on Rural Health

VA's Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D) division held a State of the Art (SOTA) Conference kicking off their efforts to identify research improving access to VA care. Although access is not an issue unique to rural Veterans, it is certainly a prominent issue when addressing the needs of rural Veterans.

The goal of the conference was to identify and examine issues related to access in order to better define the problem, and to identify proven and potential future interventions to overcome access barriers for all Veterans - whether urban or rural.

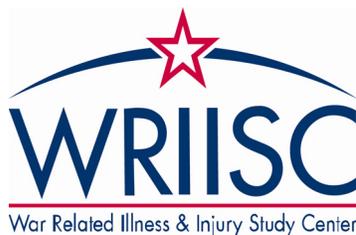
Participants also developed research questions to target strategies that will improve access for Veterans, which will be refined for several SOTA products. The research agenda and policy recommendations will be reviewed and synthesized for presentation to VA leadership as appropriate.

For a full summary, please visit:

http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/publications/internal/forum10_10.pdf

Did You Know?

Did you know that the VA has a program that focuses specifically on War Related Illnesses?



The War Related Illness and Injury Study Centers (WRIISC), located in Washington, DC, East Orange, New Jersey, and Palo Alto, California, report to VA's Office of Public Health. The WRIISC's focus is on post deployment health concerns of Veterans and their unique care needs. They provide clinical services, education for Veterans and family members, as well as research to develop innovative treatments.

For more information, visit: www.warrelatedillness.va.gov

Congestive Heart Failure Among Elder American Indian and Alaska Natives

A study done by the Center for Rural Health (Univ. of North Dakota) sought to determine the prevalence of Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) among Elder American Indians (AIs) and Alaskan Natives (ANs), to identify other patterns, and identify other conditions that were significantly associated with having CHF. They found that ten percent of older AIs/ANs have CHF. Men were slightly more likely than women and increasing age corresponds with higher CHF prevalence for both genders. It also found that AI/AN Elders with CHF are more likely to have other health conditions, finding hypertension having the strongest link, with other conditions including arthritis, diabetes, cataracts, depression, and stroke.

For the full fact sheet, go to: www.ruralhealth.und.edu/publications/3

