

# Information Sheet



## Partnership Overview

The partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the [Crohn's & Colitis Foundation \(CCF\)](#) supports Veterans diagnosed with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), including Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. IBD causes chronic inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract and inflammation of the colon, resulting in painful ulcers and other symptoms. This partnership, facilitated by the National Center for Healthcare Advancement and Partnerships (HAP), enhances awareness and understanding of IBD to improve Veteran health and well-being.

## Partnership Impact

Established in October 2021, the VHA-CCF partnership provided a range of educational content and support for Veterans.

- [Veteran-focused webpage](#), featuring step-by-step instructions for Veterans to access treatment and links to other VA resources, has over 3,500 unique page visits.
- [Crohn's & Colitis Foundation Veterans Support Group](#) offers a platform for Veterans with IBD to connect and share experiences to enhance community support. With approximately 79 members, the group facilitates open discussions, mutual support, and valuable insights.

## VHA Roles and Resources

VHA provides resources to enhance awareness about treatments, educational tools, health and wellness advice, and accessible platforms.

- VA's [Whole Health Library](#) offers IBD educational materials.
- VHA provides [diet, exercise, and mental health care tips](#) for Veterans with IBD.
- VA's health app, [MyHealthVet](#), helps Veterans with IBD securely communicate with their care team.



## CCF Roles and Resources

Since 1967, CCF engaged in IBD research offering resources, advocating for patients, and fostering a sense of community.

- CCF provides health professions [education workshops and programs](#).
- CCF publishes two scientific journals, [Inflammatory Bowel Diseases](#) and [Crohn's & Colitis 360](#), offering insights into the rapidly growing field of IBD.
- CCF's impacts more than 1.2 million patients annually, empowering patients and caregivers through education, support, and [advocacy programs](#).



## Innovative Strategic Partnerships Facilitated through the National Center for Healthcare Advancement and Partnerships

HAP achieves the VHA's mission to honor America's Veterans by supporting the field to cultivate public private partnerships (P3) and explore emerging therapies when other treatments have not been successful. HAP supports small scale healthcare advancement initiatives (HAIs) that enable the implementation of field-based impactful partnership projects aligned with HAP's pillars and VA/VHA strategic plan. To learn more about VHA partnerships, please visit [va.gov/healthpartnerships](http://va.gov/healthpartnerships).

To learn more about CCF, visit [crohnscolitisfoundation.org](http://crohnscolitisfoundation.org).

For more information about HAP, visit <https://www.va.gov/HEALTHPARTNERSHIPS/index.asp>.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration  
National Center for Healthcare  
Advancement and Partnerships