

# VA MS CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE **MISSION & CORES**

The VA Multiple Sclerosis Centers of Excellence (MSCoE) are dedicated to furthering the understanding of multiple sclerosis (MS), its impact on Veterans, and effective treatments to help manage MS symptoms. By partnering with Veterans, caregivers, health care professionals, MS advocates, Veteran service organizations and community health care institutes, MSCoE strives to minimize disability, maximizing quality of life for Veterans with MS. MSCoE has two national coordinating Centers - MSCoE East jointly located in Baltimore, MD and Washington, DC and MSCoE West jointly located in Seattle, WA and Portland, OR. The Centers are organized around four collaborative cores: **CLINICAL CARE, EDUCATION, RESEARCH, and INFORMATICS.**



Improve clinical care of Veterans with MS by developing a national network of VA MS providers. Advocate for appropriate and safe use of MS therapies, as well as monitoring, through collaborations with the national VA Pharmacy Benefits Management Service. Provide national consultation services and guidance to VA health care professionals. Mentor fellows, residents, and medical students on MS clinical care practices.



Provide MS education for health care professionals, Veterans, and caregivers to improve knowledge, enhance access to resources, and promote Veteran self-efficacy and treatment adherence. Collaborate with Veteran and MS service organizations to increase educational opportunities and share knowledge. Coordinate post-doctoral MD and PhD fellowship training programs to develop expertise in MS health care.



Conduct clinical, health services, epidemiologic, and basic science research relevant to the care of Veterans with MS. Disseminate research findings through publications, presentations, abstracts, and clinical practice guidelines. Enhance research collaboration among VA medical facilities and increase access to research opportunities. Provide research mentorship for the next generation of MS scientists.



Employ informatics, telemedicine technology, and the MSCoE website to enhance and modernize MS health care delivery. Deploy and manage the MSCoE MS Assessment Tool and MS Surveillance Registry to support MS population management and individual care. Maintain a national MS Data Repository of Veterans with MS that is utilized in VA facility clinics and MS research.

Through local and national collaborations, MSCoE is improving health care services for Veterans with MS. For additional information, visit [www.va.gov/ms](http://www.va.gov/ms) or send an e-mail to [MSCentersofExcellence@va.gov](mailto:MSCentersofExcellence@va.gov).

# NATIONAL NETWORK

## MS REGIONAL PROGRAMS

