

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)  
Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee (GGAC)  
Recommendations Fall 2022

Action Plan Narrative to accompany Responses to the GGAC Fall 2022 Recommendations.

**Recommendation 1: GGAC strongly recommends that the Office of Research and Development (ORD) focus efforts on the diverse aging Veteran population across the spectrum of basic, translational, clinical, rehabilitation and health services research in the development of their portfolios.**

**VA Response:** Concur.

While ORD is under reorganization, the Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care (GEC) will have a voice in the development of pathways for the funding and conduct of aging research in Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Dr. Marianne Shaughnessy has agreed to serve on the Investigator Scientific Review and Management Workgroup, which had its first meeting January 19, 2023.

**Recommendation 2: The Committee recommends that HSR&D fund a trial with a coordinating center and also observational study to evaluate GED outcomes and cost versus conventional ED care. Additionally, HSR&D should issue a request for proposal for evaluations of this endeavor.**

**VA Response:** Concur.

The VA Geriatric Emergency Department (ED) Accreditation team has successfully obtained geriatric accreditation from the American College of Emergency Physicians for more than 40 VA EDs. ORD has funded a meeting for Geriatrics and ED researchers to plan an evaluation strategy for this endeavor. VA investigators with expertise and interest are preparing proposals in this area. Discussions between GEC and the Health Services Research & Development yielded an additional suggestion to apply for funds to initiate evaluation activities through their Researchers & Evaluators-in-Residence program. A prospective trial of GEC accreditation would likely not be feasible as a study design but will be considered.

**Recommendation 3: GGAC recommends that GEC generate and publish staffing recommendations for oversight and administrative support of GEC programs in the field.**

**VA Response:** Concur.

GEC is undertaking a literature review and environmental scan to identify how similar entities staff comparable programs. They will compile and analyze data using VA data

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sources and complete interviews and surveys during fiscal year (FY) 2023 and issue findings and recommendations in FY 2024.

**Recommendation 4: The Committee asks the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to support GEC in development and implementation of a plan to extend Age-friendly care beyond traditional GEC care settings and looks forward to a presentation of plans to spread these practices throughout the enterprise since aging Veterans receive care in all areas not just GEC.**

**VA Response:** Concur.

The VHA Innovation Ecosystem (IE) Office is supporting an Age-Friendly Summit in June 2023 to identify best practices from VA field staff that have successfully implemented Age-Friendly principles of care and achieved recognition from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. Diffusion of Excellence staff from the IE office will be present to assist in developing the strategic plan for moving the Age-Friendly initiative into non-geriatric care settings, starting with ED and Surgery settings of care. The proceedings from the conference, along with the strategic plan will be published by the end of FY 2023.

**Department of Veterans Affairs  
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