Birmingham-Atlanta GRECC “Enhancing Quality of Prescribing Practices for Veterans Discharged from the Emergency Department” (EQUIPPED) has as its goal the reduced prescribing of potentially inappropriate medications (“PIM”—based on the Beers’ list) for older Veterans discharged from the Emergency Department. In FY 2016, EQUIPPED impacted an estimated 28,500 unique Veterans across implementation sites (Birmingham, Atlanta, Bronx, Nashville, Durham). This has resulted in a sustained 50% relative reduction in the PIM per month for more than 12 months post-implementation. The program will expand to two more sites in FY 2017.

Durham GRECC’s VISN 6 Bone Health Service identifies Veterans in the Network with an osteoporotic fracture who are not currently receiving fracture prevention therapies. Electronic consultation to primary care providers resulted in 233 eConsults in FY 2016. One hundred ninety-three were followed by a Durham-based Bone Health Nurse followed who provided education, logistical assistance with appointments and monitoring of medication adherence. Although 38% of bone mineral density (BMD) studies were normal, 45% of patients had osteopenia and 17% had osteoporosis. Bisphosphonate medications were ordered for 71% of the patients for whom they were indicated; another 20 Veterans received the medications after dual X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) findings indicated their use was advisable. It is projected that extending the service to the Greenville Community-Based Outpatient Clinic will increase the number of BMD studies offered to Veterans in VISN 6 by at least 50% over the next year.

Miami GRECC Teams with Hospitalists to Improve Care Transitions for Hospitalized Older Veterans.

Thirty-day readmission rates and attendant costs were reduced, and Veterans and Caregivers satisfaction improved, through geriatrics co-management with hospitalist teams. Daily interdisciplinary huddles and comprehensive geriatric assessment for the at-risk hospitalized older Veteran. The program was expanded to all five Miami VAHS hospitalist teams. Cumulative data from April through December 2015 shows that of the 183 patients intervened, 26 were readmitted, resulting in 1 readmission rate of 14.2%. Recent trends reveal that their readmission rates are gradually decreasing (from 14.89% to 12.77%). This information has been disseminated through newsletters and during regional and national meetings.

GRECCs: VHA’s Centers of Excellence focusing on vulnerable Veterans through the advancement and integration of research, education and clinical innovation in geriatrics and gerontology within the VA healthcare system. There are currently twenty GRECCs located nationwide with the common mission of improving the quality of care for older Veterans. For more information please visit us at http://www.va.gov/grecc