

Information Sheet



The mission of the [National Center for Healthcare Advancement and Partnerships \(HAP\)](#) is to serve as a trusted resource and a catalyst for the growth of effective partnerships at the national, state, and community level. HAP advances the health and well-being of Veterans through the exploration of innovative, safe, and ethical emerging therapies.

Emergency Medicine in VHA

[Emergency Medical Care](#) is a vital part of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Office of Specialty Care Services, which ensures that Veterans receive the best preventive, clinical, spiritual, religious, and nutritional care. Emergency Medicine includes specialists who care for patients with acute illnesses and injuries that require immediate medical attention. These specialists are available 24/7 and are trained and prepared to examine, diagnose, and treat any emergent condition, regardless of the patient's gender, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, or condition.

Partnership Overview

Since 2018, VHA has partnered with the [American College of Emergency Physicians \(ACEP\)](#) to educate community emergency department (ED) providers about Veteran-specific needs, services, and care. The partnership, which is facilitated HAP, seeks to achieve the following goals:

- Inform non-VHA community ED providers about Veteran benefits and resources.
- Equip non-VHA medical professionals with Veteran-centered care.
- Enhance the recruitment of emergency medicine professionals to work in VHA medical facilities.
- Share information and data to help advance emergency care for Veterans.

The VHA-ACEP partnership has increased ED providers' ability to offer prompt, Veteran-centered emergency care services. Emergency care refers to hospital services provided immediately to prevent death or the serious impairment of a patient's health. The partnership collaborated to create the following resources and initiatives:

- **[“Stop the Spread: A Patient Guide to the Novel Coronavirus” \(COVID-19\):](#)** An informative guide for Veterans and the public about COVID-19, offering essential information on the virus, its prevention, and what individuals can do to protect themselves and others.
- **[Guidance on ED Visits During COVID-19:](#)** Guidance to assist individuals, including Veterans, in making informed decisions about seeking emergency medical care during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **[Implementation of ACEP Technologies:](#)** The collaboration allows VHA to implement advanced technologies from ACEP, enhancing the quality and efficiency of care within ED.
- **[Expanded Access to Emergency Medicine Telehealth:](#)** Expanded access to VHA's telehealth care program, ensuring more Veterans can receive timely and convenient health care services.

VHA Partnership Roles and Resources

VHA EDs are at the forefront of delivering exceptional care to Veterans. VHA provides valuable resources aimed at enhancing the quality and effectiveness of emergency care services.

- **VA Geriatric Emergency Department Program:** The National VA Geriatric ED is dedicated to enhancing geriatric-focused care in VA EDs.
- **VA Intermediate Care Technician (ICT) Program:** Composed of former military health care professionals, the VA ICT Program is designed to hire former military corpsmen and combat medics into positions at VA Medical Centers. ICTS leverage their clinical expertise to elevate the quality of care for Veterans, ensuring they receive top-tier medical attention and support.



American College of Emergency Physicians Roles and Resources

ACEP is a medical organization dedicated to advancing emergency medicine and ensuring high-quality care for patients in emergency situations. Established in 1968, ACEP advocates for emergency physicians, offering education, resources, and support to enhance the practice of emergency medicine. ACEP's mission includes improving patient outcomes, promoting professional development, advocating for health care policy changes, and contributing to the overall advancement of emergency medical care.

- **ACEP ED COVID-19 Management Tool:** The ACEP ED COVID-19 Management Tool is designed to assist clinicians in assessing patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. It provides guidance on best practices for managing COVID-19 cases within EDs.
- **Point-of-Care Tools:** ACEP provides a library of point-of-care tools, developed by leading experts, to ensure the delivery of the highest-quality care to patients in VHA EDs.

To learn more about VHA partnerships, visit <https://www.va.gov/healthpartnerships/>.

To learn more about ACEP, visit <https://www.acep.org/>.

VA



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