

Journal Selection

The journal selected is the Women's Health Issues (WHI). This journal was recommended by a leader in women veteran research in the Veteran Affairs Health System. A description:

Women's Health Issues (WHI) is a peer-reviewed, bimonthly, multidisciplinary journal that publishes research and review manuscripts related to women's health care and policy. As the official journal of the <http://www.jiwh.org> Jacobs Institute of Women's Health, it is dedicated to improving the health and health care of all women throughout the lifespan and in diverse communities. The journal seeks to inform health services researchers, health care and public health professionals, social scientists, policymakers, and others concerned with women's health (<http://www.whijournal.com/>, n.d.).

References: Women Health Issues. (n.d.). Retrieved from: <http://www.whijournal.com>

Abstract Information

Women Health Issues Journal Abstract Requirement. Should not exceed 250 words.

Abstract

Title: A Quality Improvement Project to Use an Educational Outreach Program to Expand Access to VA Health Care Services for Female Veterans

Introduction:

Historically, female veterans have had poor access and utilization of Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Care. Females represent roughly 2.2 million of the nearly 22 million veterans in the United States. However, only six percent of female veterans are VA health care users. The VA found that only one in six female veterans understood their earned health benefits. Female veterans' lack of understanding of VA healthcare benefits is a major modifiable barrier for low utilization of VA healthcare services. Will implementing an educational outreach program improve female veterans' access to VA healthcare? The purpose of the quality improvement project was to use an educational outreach program to increase the knowledge of female veterans about their eligibility for VA health care benefits, services provided, and locations, with the goal of increasing their intent to enroll in VA healthcare.

Materials and methods:

A Knowledge-to-Action (KTA) framework was used to adapt best-practices and recommendations from the literature to assess the needs of female veterans, create a teaching program, compile pre-existing outreach resources, and create a pre- and post- intervention questionnaire data collection tool.

Results:

A comparison of pre- & post intervention scores revealed the intervention did have a significant impact on the participants' knowledge, as evident by the p-statistical significance.

Discussions:

There were unexpected knowledge gaps in the female veterans enrolled and those who were VA employees.

Implication for Practice and/or Policy:

Further educational outreach efforts are needed to ensure female veterans have the knowledge needed to overcome barriers to access their well-deserved VA health care benefits.

Conclusion:

This quality improvement project demonstrated the use of an educational outreach program is needed to mitigate lack of knowledge as a barrier to female veterans accessing and utilizing VA healthcare.