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A higher percentage of Veterans in rural areas are older, have multiple chronic conditions and select the VA for healthcare. To address the needs of rural older Veterans with complex needs, GRECC Connect hubs use case finding approaches combined with regular outreach and education to VA community-based outpatient clinic (CBOC) providers serving rural Veterans and caregivers. Alignment of GRECC Connect services with needs of providers and patients promotes establishment of therapeutic alliances in caring for medically complex older Veterans. After identifying high risk, high need patients, hubs use the following strategies to increase access to geriatric specialty care through telehealth modalities: 1) Co-management of patients through e-consultation and telehuddles (GRECC Connect interprofessional geriatric specialty care teams extend support to CBOC providers); 2) Clinical video telehealth to CBOCs and Video on Demand to Veteran homes (to reduce travel burden); and, 3) Tele-group visits (especially for behavioral health and caregiver support).

#### SPREADING TELEHEALTH FOR OLDER ADULTS IN RURAL AREAS THROUGH NETWORK OF GERIATRIC INTERPROFESSIONAL TEAMS

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Older adults living in rural areas have limited access to geriatrics interprofessional team care. In the Veteran healthcare system, geriatric teams such as geriatricians, nursing professionals, social workers, pharmacists and psychologists, located in urban areas link up with rural clinics to provide geriatric consultation remotely through clinical video telehealth and other means in the project GRECC Connect. Since its inception in 2014, the service has now grown to 16 geriatric teams offering consultation to over 100 clinic sites serving older rural Veterans. GRECC Connect delivered

over 2,000 consultations in 2019, meeting complex care needs by identifying and linking geriatric services and management to patients with geriatric syndromes. The network of established geriatric teams, local champions and a shared Electronic Health Record facilitated the spread, while ongoing effort to build and maintain relationships between consultants and local rural provider teams and other community based services are important for ongoing success.

#### TELEHEALTH COMPETENCIES FOR INTERPROFESSIONAL TEAMS CARING FOR OLDER ADULTS AND CARE PARTNERS

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Providing interprofessional geriatric care via telehealth is a unique clinical skillset that differs from providing face-to-face care. The lack of clear guidance on telehealth best practices for providing care to older adults and their care partners has created a systems-based practice educational gap. For several years, GRECC Connect has provided interprofessional telehealth visits to older adults, frequently training interprofessional learners in the process. Using our interprofessional telehealth expertise, the GRECC Connect Education Workgroup created telehealth competencies for the delivery of care to older adults and care partners for interprofessional learners. Competencies incorporate key telehealth, interprofessional and geriatric domains, and were informed by diverse stakeholders within the Veterans Health Administration. During this symposium, comments will be solicited from attendees. Once finalized, these competencies will drive the development of robust curricula and evaluation measures aimed at training the next generation of interprofessional providers to expertly care for older adults via telehealth.

#### MEDICAL STUDENT'S PERCEPTION OF DEMENTIA ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT AMONG RURAL VETERANS

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Background: Rural Veterans rely on their caregivers, case managers and primary care providers for dementia management. Providers of such patients need to work closely with caregivers, know the local dementia resources and be comfortable with the multiple facets of dementia assessment and management. Unfortunately, medical students are not particularly well trained in these aspects and huge knowledge