

# Research Workgroup Take-Homes



**VA**



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health Administration  
Health Services Research & Development Service

**Measuring What Matters Most**  
VA HSR&D State of the Art Conference March 29-30, 2023



# Background Review/Evidence Inventory



**Evidence for Added Value of Whole Person Measurements in Clinical Research**

No reviews, but individual studies were identified that demonstrate added value of whole person measurements



**How Commonly Whole Person Concepts are Addressed in Clinical Research**

Infrequent use and used inconsistently across research topics



**Barriers and Facilitators to Use of Whole Person Measurements**

No published reviews, but barriers and facilitators were discussed in many articles on use of measures



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**  
Veterans Health Administration  
Health Services Research & Development Service

**Measuring What Matters Most**   
VA HSR&D State of the Art Conference March 29-30, 2023

# Background Review/Evidence Inventory



**Very complicated to evaluate state of knowledge**

Whole person measures is a very broad concept

Lack of shared terminology - Same concept but different names/different disciplines use different terms for concepts



**Discussion about value of shifting from talking about whole person measures to talking about a “whole person measurement strategy”**

We can't understand the whole person through any one measure, each measure addresses different aspects/dimension of the whole person.

If researchers apply a strategy of ensuring they systematically review and integrate measures of non-symptom factors (ideally that reflect domains of what matters for research participants in specific populations), then this can provide valuable insight into the whole person.

**VA**



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health Administration

Health Services Research & Development Service

**Measuring What Matters Most**  
VA HSR&D State of the Art Conference March 29-30, 2023



# What Additional Research is Needed on Whole Person Measurements?

## Evidence-Synthesis

- More targeted concepts than whole person measures
- Focus on what is known about use, added benefit, and barriers and facilitators
- Extent to which findings differ for at-risk/marginalized veteran populations

## Research on Veteran perspective/unique concerns for at-risk/vulnerable populations

- Focus groups with Veterans about what matters to them
- Address changes over life span and during life transitions (e.g., military separation)

## Test interventions to improve whole person/well-being outcomes

**VA**



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health Administration  
Health Services Research & Development Service

**Measuring What Matters Most**   
VA HSR&D State of the Art Conference March 29-30, 2023

# What Additional Research is Needed on Whole Person Measurements?

Examine whole person measurements as predictors, moderators, and mediators, as they relate to symptom/condition measures

- Predictors of mortality above and beyond symptom/condition-based measures
- Moderators of effectiveness of treatment
- Mediators of treatment impacts on symptom/condition-based measures

Examine sensitivity to change of these measures for treatment-outcomes context

Observational research examining temporal change in relationship between symptom-based measures and whole person measurements/functioning measures

**VA**



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health Administration  
Health Services Research & Development Service

**Measuring What Matters Most**   
VA HSR&D State of the Art Conference March 29-30, 2023

# What Can be Done to Encourage Research on Whole Person Measurements?

- Repository of relevant measures and articles
- METRIC-like center that provides resources on whole person measurement
  - Could include the repository
- RFAs focused on whole person measurement
- All RFAs/VA ORD policy encourage use and reporting of whole person measurements in research
- Education on these types of measures and their value in VA research training programs

**VA**



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health Administration  
Health Services Research & Development Service

**Measuring What Matters Most**  
VA HSR&D State of the Art Conference March 29-30, 2023



# Guiding Principles in Selecting Measures?

- Use a theoretical framework to select outcome
- Take a whole person measurement strategy to ensure all relevant dimensions of whole person are measured
- Consider what matters most to veterans in context of research question
- Consider relevance of measure to marginalized/at-risk veteran populations
- Use validated measures
- Identify benchmark for clinical significance
- Report whole person measurement findings in conjunction with symptoms/condition measures to better contextualize findings

**VA**



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health Administration

*Health Services Research & Development Service*

**Measuring What Matters Most**   
VA HSR&D State of the Art Conference March 29-30, 2023