



Welcome to the VIP Initiative

March 2019

An IDEAS –VISN 19 Service and Research Collaborative

## AHSR CONFERENCE

### Addiction Health Services Research Conference

**Grand Summit at the Canyons Village  
Park City, Utah. October 16-19, 2019.**



The University of Utah's Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Epidemiology's Program for Addiction Research, Clinical Care, Knowledge, and Advocacy (PARCKA) is pleased to welcome you to Park City, Utah for the annual Addiction Health Services Research Conference (AHSR), Oct. 16-19, 2019.

AHSR provides a special opportunity to develop knowledge and apply research through targeted workshops, panel discussions, engagement with expert speakers, and networking opportunities. Policymakers will leave fully informed about best practices for delivering treatment to diverse patients. Researchers will leave with a firmer grasp of what their peers are discovering and become inspired by new avenues of potential investigation. Clinicians will learn the latest evidence regarding identifying, assessing, and treating addiction disorders.



<https://medicine.utah.edu/internalmedicine/epidemiology/parcka/ahsr-conference/>

## VIP RESEARCH

### High Utilizers: Investigating High Instances of Readmission

Over the course of six months, 19 providers, 12 high utilizer patients (i.e., patients who had four or more hospitalizations in the last calendar year), 13 control patients, and three high utilizer patients' family members were interviewed to investigate reasons and contributing factors to high instances of readmission to the VA hospital. Regardless of high utilizer or control status, the majority of patients were hospitalized for chronic or age-related illness as well as exacerbations of service-related conditions or illnesses. Similarly, there were few to no discernible differences between patient groups regarding social determinants of health (e.g., housing, finances, transportation, and social support). Providers appeared to know more about their patients' housing, transportation, and social support situations than their financial ones. Additionally, there were few differences between patient groups concerning communication ability and access to services. Overall, both patient groups wanted to be able to return their hobbies and daily activities while balancing those with their medication and therapeutic regimens. Patients expressed a number of negative experiences with the VA (e.g., poor communication, contraction of Hepatitis, and premature hospital discharge); however, they were generally satisfied with the care they received, particularly referencing staff effort and the quality of care compared to the cost of said care.

## VIP PUBLICATION

[No end to the crisis without an end to the waiver.](#)

Frank JW, Wakeman SE, **Gordon AJ**.

Subst Abus. 2018;39(3):263-265. doi: 10.1080/08897077.2018.1543382. PMID: 30676296

[Protocol for evaluating the nationwide implementation of the VA Stratification Tool for Opioid Risk Management \(STORM\).](#)

Chinman M, Gellad WF, McCarthy S, **Gordon AJ**, Rogal S, Mor MK, Hausmann LRM.

Implement Sci. 2019 Jan 18;14(1):5. doi: 10.1186/s13012-019-0852-z. PMID: 30658658

[Stimulant Use in Pregnancy: An Under-recognized Epidemic Among Pregnant Women.](#)

Smid MC, Metz TD, **Gordon AJ**.

Clin Obstet Gynecol. 2019 Mar;62(1):168-184. PMID: 30601144

## MARCH 2019, VIP CHAT

Please announce to your networks our 30 minute, virtual VIP chat on March 27th, 2019 to discuss: **Project ECHO: YOUR case discussions**". If you have a question you would like addressed, please submit it to [Nodira.Codell@va.gov](mailto:Nodira.Codell@va.gov).

For resources, guidances, past newsletters and presentations, visit our VIP SharePoint site: [www.tinyurl.com/vip-initiative](http://www.tinyurl.com/vip-initiative)