Supplemental Digital Content 1. Key Informant Interview Questions

Thank you for your willingness to participate in our quality improvement project. As you are aware, the VA Evidence Synthesis Program (ESP) is interested in gaining a better understanding of the evidence needs of VHA leadership. We are interested in gaining insight into the environment in which the VA health system is operating and the context in which your department/office has used evidence as well as some of the barriers and facilitators that you have encountered when using evidence synthesis products.

Demographic Information:
1. What is your current role in the VA health system?
   a. If clinician, do you practice in the VA?
   b. Describe your budget authority. [Do they have authority to purchase/implement new technologies/interventions?]
2. How long have you been in this role?
3. In which region is your facility?

Department Priorities:
1. What are your department’s current priorities? [performance measures]
2. How do you anticipate your department’s priorities changing in the future (next 3 to 5 years)?
3. What are the biggest challenges your department or program office is currently facing?

Current Use of Evidence:
1. How does your department/program office evaluate new technologies and/or interventions?
2. How do you get up to speed regarding new technologies or interventions that you aren’t familiar with?
   a. What sources/types of evidence do you currently use to inform your decision-making needs?
   b. Who do you go to for your information needs?
   c. What is the typical timeframe in which you need evidence?
3. In your opinion, how should the VHA as a learning health care system go about evaluating new technologies and/or interventions?
4. Can you give me a recent example of how you were able to use evidence to inform your decision-making? What made this possible?
5. Can you give me an example of a case in which it was difficult for you to use evidence to inform your decision-making? What factors prevented you from using evidence?
6. What other factors influence your ability to make decisions to prioritize or implement the use of new interventions or technologies? (eg, buy in from end-users, etc)

Evidence Needs:
1. What have you found most helpful/least helpful when using evidence synthesis products?
2. In your opinion, what component is essential in an evidence product for implementation to occur?
3. What can researchers do to increase the usefulness of evidence synthesis reports?
4. Is there anything else you’d like to tell us about your evidence needs?

In Closing:
Is there anyone we should talk to learn more about how the VHA uses evidence in decision-making?