National VA Epilepsy Consortium Lecture Series

An Overview of the National VA Epilepsy Consortium

Monday, May 5, 2014

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM EST
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM PST

Dial-in: 1-800-767-1750   Access/Moderator Code: 06805#
About today’s lecture

Description
The Epilepsy Centers of Excellence (ECoE) are proud to announce a series of quarterly audio conferences providing National VA Epilepsy Consortium members with an opportunity to discuss best practices in the care of Veteran patients with epilepsy and other seizure disorders.

Outcome Objectives
• Provide an overview of the National VA Epilepsy Consortium
• Describe the National VA Epilepsy Consortium national network
• Discuss offerings and benefits of membership
• Answer member questions about the consortium

Today’s Agenda
• Introduction to the Consortium
• Consortium Network
• Consortium Offerings
• Questions
About the Epilepsy Centers of Excellence (ECoE)

Our Mission

*Improve the health and well-being of Veteran patients with epilepsy and other seizure disorders through the integration of clinical care, outreach, research, and education.*

- Veterans Mental Health and Other Care Improvements PL110-387 S.2162
- VA founded the Epilepsy Centers of Excellence (ECoE), establishing 16 sites that are linked to form 4 regional centers.
- Leverage technology to improve access to care
- Education & Research
- ECoE should have the necessary capacity to conduct state-of-the-art research, education and clinical care activities in the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy.
- Advisory committee composed of Veterans and appropriate health care and research representatives of the facility and of affiliates school(s)
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About the ECoE (cont.)

[Map of epilepsy centers of excellence regional map with details of locations and contact information included]
About the ECoE (cont.)

ECoE Accomplishments

• Support delivery of optimal care through professional education, collaboration, and peer support
• Create a hub and spoke model of care, expanding and streamlining the referral network for specialized epilepsy treatment, advanced neuro-diagnostics, and surgical evaluation
• Ensure accessibility and continuity of specialized care for Veterans regardless of locality

National ECoE Program Goals

• Establish a national system of care to all Veterans with Epilepsy, to function as a center of excellence in research, education, and clinical care activities in the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy
• Develop a national consortium of providers interested in treating epilepsy at VA healthcare facilities lacking an ECoE
• Provide health professional education and training in order to deliver the highest quality of standard of care to Veterans with epilepsy
Introduction

• The National VA Epilepsy Consortium is a network of VA physicians, nurses, therapists, pharmacists, and other allied healthcare providers
• Improve the health and well-being of Veteran patients with epilepsy and related seizure disorders
• Integration of clinical care, education, and research across the VA healthcare system

Objectives

• Support the delivery of optimal care through professional education, collaboration, and peer support
• Formalize, evaluate, and strengthen the epilepsy clinical care network, in a regional “Hub and Spoke” model, fostering tangible relationships for collaboration and clinical referral
• Ensure accessibility and continuity of specialized care for Veterans regardless of locality, broadening the impact of the ECoE network

2014 Goal

• Recruit a consortium site in all 50 states

*As of 5/1/14 - 65 sites, 97 members, 46 states
Needs Assessment

• Ensure consistent quality of care and better respond to the needs of consortium members
• Make certain that services provided by the ECoE assists clinicians in the management of Veteran patients with epilepsy
• Raise awareness of the range of ECoE services available
• Evaluate EEG and Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) equipment needs at consortium sites
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Education

Members of the National VA Epilepsy Consortium are provided with a suite of educational materials and opportunities both for their own professional development as well as for their Veteran patients with epilepsy.

Provider Education

Healthcare Provider Education Audio Conferences

Sponsored by the ECoE & Employee Education System (EES)

Provider calls are CME accredited for Physicians and Nurses


1:00-2:00 PM Eastern Time / 10:00-11:00 AM Pacific Time

May 7, 2014 – “Autoimmune Causes of Epilepsy”
Manu Hegde, MD – San Francisco VAMC

July 9, 2014 - “Driving and Epilepsy”
Allan Krumholz, MD - Baltimore VAMC

September 10, 2014 – “Epilepsy and Imaging”
Zulfi Haneef, MD – Houston VAMC
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Patient Education

Epilepsy and Seizures in Veterans QuickSeries Handbook

- A pocket guide that provides an overview on understanding, managing and treating epilepsy
- Available from the ECoE to consortium members and their Veteran patients with epilepsy

Patient and Caregiver Education Audio Conference

Sponsored by the ECoE & Employee Education System (EES)

Patients, caregivers, and anyone interested in learning more about epilepsy and seizures are welcome to call in.

1:00-2:00 PM EST / 10:00-11:00 AM PST

June 5, 2014 – “Living Well With Epilepsy”
Patricia Banks, RN - Cleveland VAMC

August 7, 2014 – “Mental Health and Epilepsy”
Collette Evrard, NP – Portland VAMC
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Annual Consortium Reception
- A face-to-face meeting held annually hosted by the ECoE in conjunction with national society meetings and symposiums
- Opportunity to discuss successes and challenges in caring for Veterans with Epilepsy

The Consortium Connection Newsletter
- Quarterly newsletter highlights important news and useful information from the ECoE
- Features regular articles about advancements in epilepsy, links to new articles and videos, as well as a calendar of educational events

Mini Residency
- The ECoE will host mini residencies for neurologists interested in hands-on training with an ECoE epilepsy specialist.
- Consortium members and ECoE sites interested in participating in or hosting a mini residency should contact Angela Vargas.
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Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) Resources
For consortium sites with Epilepsy Monitoring Units, the ECoE has produced a Safety in the EMU training video for nurses. This video along with other helpful resources can be found at http://www.epilepsy.va.gov/nursing/

Consortium Webpage
The Epilepsy Centers of Excellence has a dedicated National VA Epilepsy Consortium webpage. The webpage provides information about the consortium network, a link to the National VA Epilepsy Consortium membership application, as well as back issues of The Consortium Connection newsletter. The webpage can be found at http://www.epilepsy.va.gov/Consortium/index.asp
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What Else Can We Provide?

• Service used in your scope of practice
• Service you would like to learn more about
• Education topics you are interested in
• Education format
• Other feedback

Questions/Discussion

If you have any questions please contact Angela N. Vargas, MBA, National VA Epilepsy Consortium Program Specialist, at 415-221-4810 x3164 or by email at angela.vargas@va.gov

Thank you!