



VISN4  
CENTER FOR  
EVALUATION OF  
PATIENT ALIGNED  
CARE TEAMS



## Telehealth in the PADRECC: The Key to the Patient-Centered Medical Home?

**Developed by:** Philadelphia Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and Clinical Education Center (PADRECC), led by Jayne R. Wilkinson, MD.

**Rationale:** Managing chronic, disabling diseases such as Parkinson's disease (PD) is a challenging and complicated endeavor. Implementing care-delivery methods, such as telehealth, which are patient-centric will enhance clinical care, improve patient satisfaction and decrease costs. These technologies can be utilized both in the home, as well as at closer, more convenient VAMC venues.

**Aim:**

The primary aims are to compare healthcare utilization, clinical outcomes, and patient satisfaction between subjects enrolled in telehealth program in the PADRECC and those who are not.

**Stage of Development: (e.g., status of implementation, data collection, analysis):** We are currently recruiting subjects and data collection just began on those enrolled. We have recruited 18 subjects in the facility-to-facility arm of the study, and 3 in the home telehealth arm.

**Methods:**

The target population is Philadelphia VAMC PADRECC patients, recruited during routine follow-up visits. Eligible patients are invited to participate in the appropriate arm of the study and then randomized to either the intervention group (Telehealth) or the control group (standard in-office care). The use of telehealth will be overseen by the VISN 4 telehealth coordinator and is consistent with its current standard use in the VAMC.

Research outcome measures are assessed by questionnaires completed at the time of each follow-up visit and direct data acquisition from CPRS. Questionnaires are mailed to the patient prior to the visit. Primary endpoints include quantitative data of clinical outcome (number of hospital admissions, Emergency Department (ED) visits, PADRECC phone calls, and non-routine PADRECC visits), cost (as measured by travel time, mileage, direct cost, and clinician contact hours), a quality of life questionnaire (PDQ-8), the Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS), and patients' assessment of communication during telehealth. Additionally, focus groups will be conducted and undergo qualitative analysis.

**Results:** No results are available at this time as data collection has only recently begun.

**Future Plans:** We hope to continue and complete recruitment in the next few months. We will continue to populate our database; begin data analysis in the next few months to allow us to ascertain the time needed at the end of the study to analyze and publish results.