



VISN4  
CENTER FOR  
EVALUATION OF  
PATIENT ALIGNED  
CARE TEAMS



## Tracking Elements of PACT Implementation: Developing Quantitative Variables from Qualitative Data Sources

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**Rationale:** One goal of CEPACT is to measure the impact of implementation of PACT elements on health outcomes and performance measures; however the available quantitative data are sometime inaccurate or out-of-date, and often unable to capture variations at the facility, station, or team level. In order to track PACT implementation across VISN 4 and to inform quantitative studies of impact, the qualitative evaluation team has developed a process for translating qualitative data into quantitative variables.

**Aims:**

- To track the spread of PACT implementation across VISN 4
- To measure the impact of PACT elements on patient-level health outcomes and system-level performance measures.

**Stage of Development:** Data collection occurs in 6-month intervals. Data collection and entry are complete for Periods 1 and 2. Period 3 interviews will be completed by January 31, 2012. Period 3 is the first to include interviews with substations. Where sufficient data are available, the team will retroactively complete substation level data for Periods 1 and 2.

**Methods:** We have developed, pilot tested, and refined a semi-structured interview guide for data collection. The interview is delivered via phone to a PACT Point of Contact at all VISN 4 medical centers and community-based outpatient clinics at 6-month intervals from July 2010 to December 2014.

We have also developed explicit criteria to guide the translation of qualitative interview responses into quantitative variables, as well as databases to track both quantitative and qualitative data. These data will be incorporated as variables in several existing CEPACT studies.

**Results:** Results are not yet available as we are just beginning to incorporate these data in to our analyses.

**Future Plans:**

We will begin preliminary descriptive analysis once Period 3 closes at the end of January 2012. Period 4 interviews will begin in June 2012.