

**Office of Policy and Planning  
Department of Veterans Affairs**

**Program Evaluation of Cardiac Care Programs in the  
Veterans Health Administration**

**Part 1  
Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI) and  
Percutaneous Coronary Interventions (PCI) Cohort Analyses  
(Research Questions 1-6)**

**Final Report**

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# **Program Evaluation of Cardiac Care Programs in the VHA**

## **PART 1**

### **ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION (AMI) AND PERCUTANEOUS CORONARY INTERVENTIONS (PCI) COHORT ANALYSES (RESEARCH QUESTIONS 1-6)**

The statement of work for this program evaluation was designed around eight research questions. The project team developed two cohorts, the acute myocardial infarction (AMI) and percutaneous coronary interventions (PCI) cohorts. Both of these cohorts have been presented in this report to address as many of the specifications set forth in research questions 1 through 6 as possible given the data available. National and VISN-level results have been presented and comparisons within the VA and between the VA and private sector have been made. Utilization, morbidity and mortality, level of service, distance, and satisfaction measures have been presented for individual fiscal years and have been trended over time.

The cohorts presented in this report are designed to address, to the extent possible, the following research questions.

1. To what extent is VA achieving its program outcomes for cardiac care patients based on a continuum of care?
2. How does VA's level of cardiac care health services compare to the private sector? Do the differences affect program outcomes?
3. What effect has VA's shift to outpatient care had on the health outcomes of ischemic heart disease patients?
4. What are the variances in procedures in treating ischemic heart disease across VISNs and do these variances affect program outcomes?
5. What is the level of cardiac care health services available to veterans within each VISN?
6. Are VA's rates of cardiac catheterizations and coronary artery bypass grafts (CABG's) too low, and how do these rates affect cardiac health status?

We present the results of those aspects of the Research Questions 1 through 6 that could be answered with available data in sections A through I of this report.

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