



Meeting the Health Care Needs of Women Veterans

From Policy to Implementation

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A FORUM ON
**WOMEN
VETERANS**



**July 28, 2010
Washington, D.C.**





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"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war...shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

-President George Washington

KNOWLEDGE IS
POWER

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VA's Vision

- Highest quality care to every woman veteran.
- Benefits and services that are on par with male veterans.
- Meet gender-specific needs of women veterans.
- Treat women veterans with dignity and respect.
- Provide state-of-the-art health care equipment and technology

Leaders in Women's Health





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Comprehensive Primary Care

Provision of complete primary care from one primary care provider at one site to include:

Care for acute and chronic illness

Gender specific primary care

Preventive Services

Mental Health Services

Coordination of care



More Women on the Way



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Demographics of Female OEF/OIF Veterans seen within VAHCS

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Over 230,000 served since 2001-2010
Over 128,000 separated
64,000 female veterans seen at VA

Army	63%
Air Force	18%
Navy	16%



47% less than 30 years- 78% less than 40

90% enlisted, 10% officers
56% Active duty, 44% reserve/guards



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Deployment Issues

- Combat exposure (mortars, IED, RPG)
- Heavy gear/Ceramic vests/weapons
- Duties and responsibilities
- Heavy equipment
- Extreme temperature
- Hygiene issues
- Interactions with counterparts
- Family and other relationship issues





Medical diagnoses in female OEF/OIF Veterans seen in VA 2002-10 n=63,864

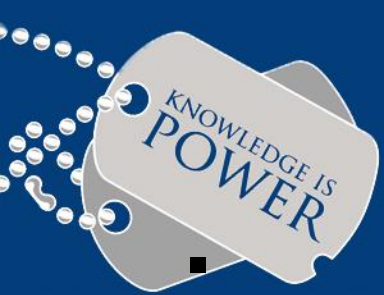
- Musculoskeletal 52%
- Mental Disorders 47%
- Neurological 39%
- Genitourinary 38%
- Gastro-intestinal 37%
- Respiratory 31%



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Other Post-Deployment Issues

- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Embedded Fragments
- Reproductive Health Concerns
- Psycho-Social concerns



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Implication for Facilities

- Staff - Development
- Providers - Education
- Comprehensive Primary Care
- Gender Specific Specialty Care
- Co-located Mental Health Care
- Specialty Care



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Stepping up to the Challenge

VA Palo-Alto has stepped up to meet the needs of growing women veterans and has enhanced many services.

This required the efforts and cooperation of leadership, providers and staff throughout the organization.



VA Palo Alto Women's Health Program

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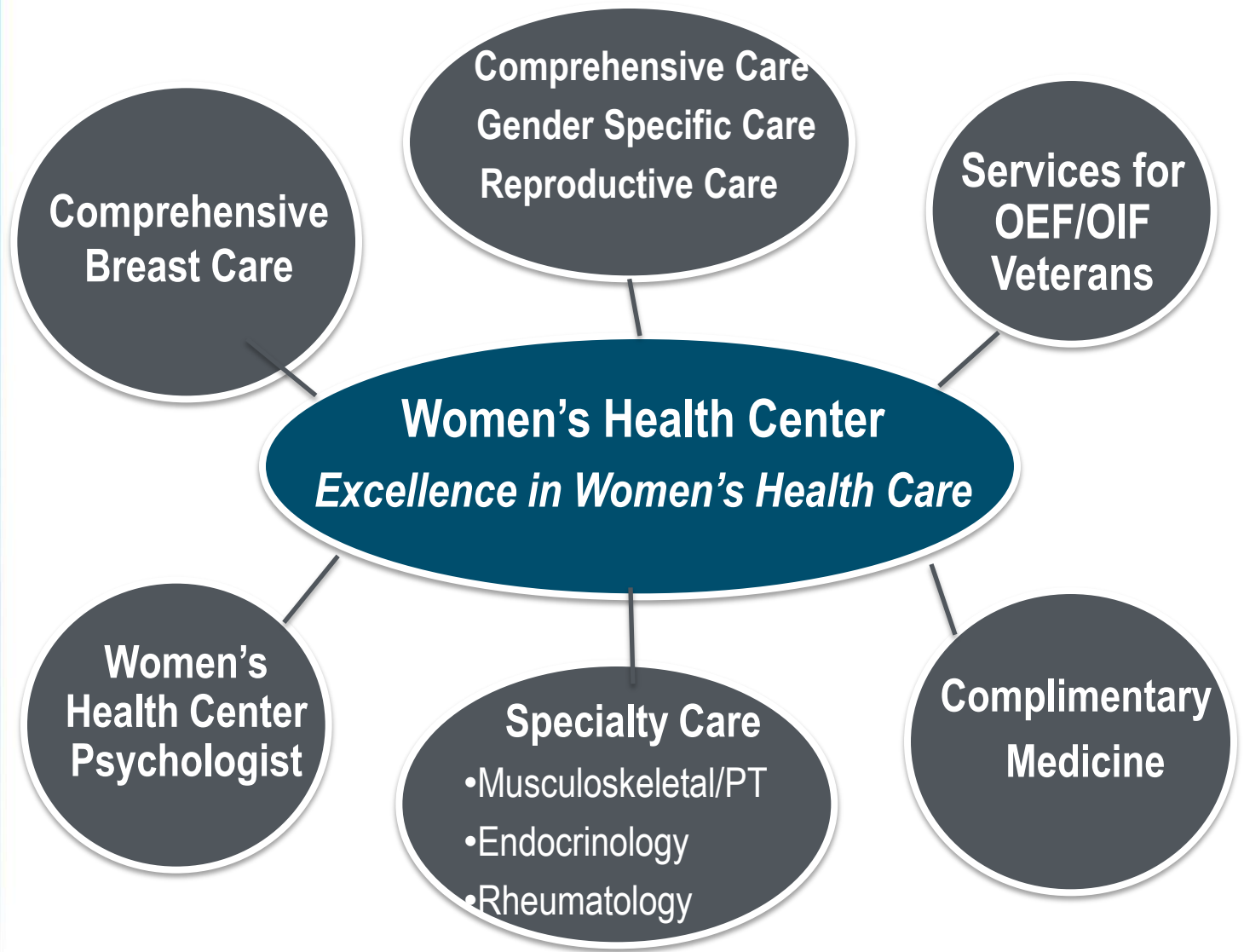
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From Policy to Facility *Implementation*

- Clinical Program
- Research
- Education
- Mental Health



Patient Centered Care





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Uniformity of Care

Community Based Out-Patient Clinics

- Designated WH Providers
- Comprehensive Primary Care
- Preventive Services
- Maternity Care
- Mental Health/ Social Work
- WH site liaisons





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Building Partnerships *Going Beyond*

- Outreach (THRIVE)
- Rural Health Program
- Homeless Veterans Program
- Mental Health
- Specialty Services
- WRIISC







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**WOMEN VETERANS
HEALTH CARE**



*You served, you deserve
the best
care anywhere*

SHE SERVED

So we could live free