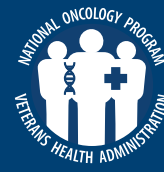


CANCER CARE AT VA: EQUITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE



SHOULDER to SHOULDER
Every Step of the Way

What is Health Equity?

Health equity is the idea that all people deserve to reach their full health potential.

Health equity at VA means healthcare quality or treatment is not affected by a Veteran's gender, race or ethnicity, location, physical ability, or socioeconomic status. The National Oncology Program (NOP) centers equity in its programmatic efforts.

What Does Health Equity Mean for Veterans and Cancer Care?

Health equity in cancer care for Veterans means:

- Cutting-edge treatment via clinical trials no matter the stage of Veteran's diagnosis, where they may live, or prior treatment plan
- Access for Veterans to top-rated physicians and cancer care specialists nationwide
- Systems of Excellence to address Veteran populations with specific needs
- The most advanced and up-to-date diagnostic and molecular testing that guarantees the best treatment possible.

Health Equity Improves Outcomes

Veterans are a unique population – and not just because of their commitment to the Nation. Due in part to their access to the largest integrated healthcare network in the United States, in the past 25 years, **Veterans have had better cancer outcomes than the general population.**

- Black Veterans have better outcomes for both bladder and prostate cancer compared to their peers who use the private healthcare system.
- All minority Veterans have better survivorship rates for lung and colorectal cancer than their peers in the private healthcare system.
- Compared to cancer patients who use Medicare, Veterans who use VA for their chemotherapy care have less avoidable hospitalizations.



VA is not just focused on treatment outcomes. Screening for cancer is equally important. Right now, programmatic efforts that screen for colorectal cancer are being expanded to better reach the American Indian and Native Alaskan Veteran communities.

Dedicated Resources for the Veteran Community

The National Oncology Program stands shoulder to shoulder with the Center for Minority Veterans and the Office of Health Equity to guarantee an equitable cancer care experience for Veterans.

For more information, visit cancer.va.gov



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