

Epilepsy Care Network within VHA – an opportunity for research collaborations

Robert L. Ruff, M.D., Ph.D.

Director for Neurology

Patricia G. Banks MSN/Ed CCRP

Program Coordinator for Neurology

Veteran Needs/VHA Challenges

- Epilepsy is a long-term complication of Head Trauma and other CNS injury such as stroke
- Head Trauma patients with emerging consciousness need EEG monitoring
- >80,000 veterans in VHA have epilepsy, excluding OIF/OEF
- VA currently treats ~3,600 OEF/OIF veterans with epilepsy
- Epilepsy treatment is complex – involving medication, surgery and electrical stimulation
- Resources for Epilepsy Care in VHA are spotty, 10 VISNs have medical centers with epilepsy management resources, 11 VISNs do not have good resources
- Contracted epilepsy treatment is costly – surgery is >\$100,000., yearly management cost is >\$4000. **VHA spent >\$80 million yearly for Fee Basis care in FY 2009.**
- An epilepsy care network will limit veteran travel, reduce the need to refer outside of VHA and improve uniformity of care.
- PL110-387 stipulates that the Epilepsy Centers form a network for epilepsy care with outreach to entire VHA

Epilepsy Network: Response to PL110-387

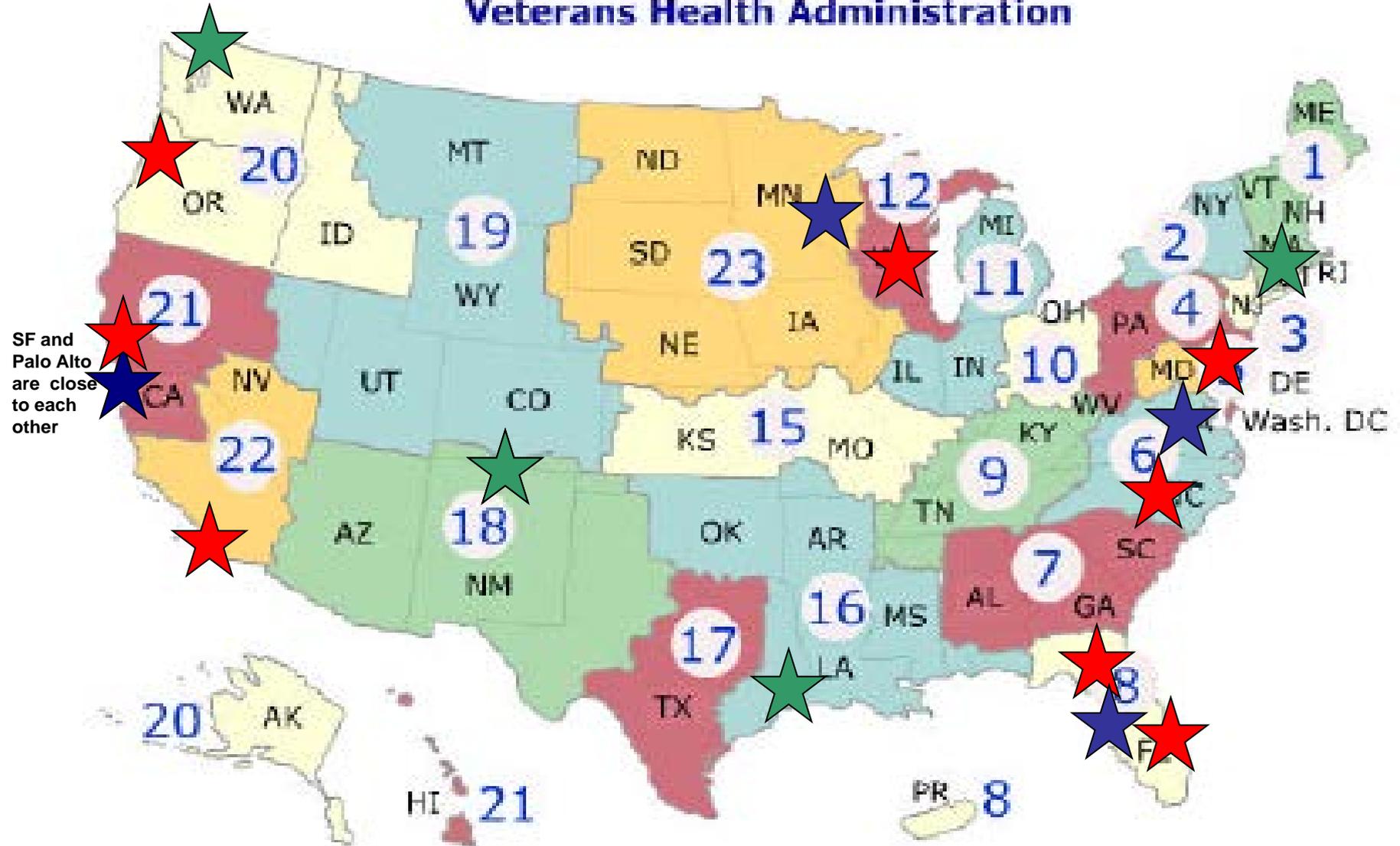
- 4 Multisite Centers that leverage existing VHA epilepsy resources
- Each Center coordinates care for a region of the United States and Puerto Rico
- Each Epilepsy Center incorporates one of the existing Polytrauma Centers
- Each Center has ≥ 1 site with the capacity to perform epilepsy surgery and detailed monitoring
- Each Center has sites with strong academic ties for training and research collaboration

Sites of Epilepsy Strength – Red Sites Surgical & Monitoring Capacity, Green Sites have Monitoring Capacity

Existing Polytrauma Centers in Blue (some have epilepsy monitoring)

Note weaknesses in 11 VISNS - 1,2,4,7,9,10,11,15,17,19,23

Veterans Health Administration



Summary

- The 4 Multi-site Epilepsy Centers link existing sites of strength with the Polytrauma Network to enable the VA to treat the OIF/OEF veterans with post traumatic epilepsy and other veterans with epilepsy while minimizing outsourcing
- The 4 Center network can enable each VISN to provide the best level of epilepsy care
- The 4 Centers can support the training and educational needs of the network and manage a VA epilepsy registry
- This program is potentially cost-neutral or cost-saving and will support the PCMH
- Excellent opportunity to conduct clinical studies of treatments, disease progression, development of post-traumatic epilepsy

Research Opportunities

- VHA supports clinical, basic and health service research
- VA can fund research that is collaborative between VA and others provided VA investigator is PI
- Electronic medical record system has the potential to facilitate multicenter studies
- Site Directors all have joint appointments in Medical Schools
- External review process overseen by Marc Dicter.

Directors	Regions	Facilities	Station	Contact Information
-----------	---------	------------	---------	---------------------

Southwest Sites

Hub Sites – San Francisco, Durham, Madison, Baltimore

Larry E. Davis	Albuquerque	New Mexico VAHCS	501	(505) 265-1711 x 2752
Richard A. Hrachovy	Houston	Michael E. DeBakey VAMC	580	(713) 791-1414 x 4007
Karen Parko	San Francisco	Palo Alto/San Francisco VAMC	662	(415) 221-4810 x 4702
Claude Wasterlain	West LA VA	Greater Los Angeles HCS	691	(310) 268-3595

Southeast Sites

Aatif Husain	Durham	Durham VAMC	558	(919) 616-2856
Yolanda Reyes-Iglesias	Miami	Miami VAHCS	546	(305) 324-4455 ext. 3151
J. Chris Sackellares	Gainesville	Malcolm R	150	(352) 376-1611
Selim Benbadis/Charles Brock	Tampa	J. A. Haley	673	813.972.7633

Northwest Sites

Paul Rutecki	Madison	William S. Middleton Memorial VA	648	(608) 256-1901
Stephen Holloway	Minneapolis	Minneapolis VAMC	607	(612) 725-2000 x 4236
Martin Salinsky	Portland	Portland VAMC	618	1-503-494-5682
William Spain	Seattle	Puget Sound	663	(206) 764-2021

Northeast Sites

Alan Towne	Richmond	Hunter Holmes McGuire VAMC	652	(804) 675-5127
Alan Krumholz	Baltimore	VA Maryland HCS	512	(410) 605-7000
Huned Patwa	West Haven	VA Connecticut HCS	689	(203) 932-5711 x4724

Thank you

- Contact information:
 - robert.ruff1 @va.gov
 - patricia.banks @va.gov