

Project Number: SDR 02-215-2

Project Title: Evaluation of PADRECCs

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This five-year multi-method, quasi-experimental study examines the extent to which the provision of Parkinson's disease care, research and education services organized within the organizational structure of a Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and Clinical Center (PADRECC) affects processes and outcomes of clinical care, research, education and the diffusion of knowledge. The principal objective of the proposed research is to identify characteristics of successful PADRECCs with a special focus on the approach to organizing them. The study utilizes comparison sites of VA medical centers and networks of medical centers that are similar to the PADRECC sites but do not have PADRECCs. Data sources to be utilized are VA national databases, merged VA-CMS databases, interviews with PADRECC and comparison-site staff, and surveys of patients and family caregivers. From this study of PADRECCs we expect not only to determine factors associated with effective and ineffective outcomes, but also to be able to generalize the findings to other diseases, providing managers and policymakers with information for establishing similar centers for other diseases.