

BLOCK 3 OF INSTRUCTION: The Role and Missions of Teaching Hospitals and Veterans Affairs Medical Centers

OVERVIEW: Teaching hospitals, including most Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers, play an important role in medical education and delivery of patient care in communities. This block discusses the three missions of teaching hospitals and VA medical centers and how institutional collaborations enhance medical education and improve access to and delivery of health care.

OBJECTIVES

- Discuss the missions of teaching hospitals and the roles they play in patient care, medical education, and medical research.
- Describe the important patient care, education, and research partnerships between medical schools, teaching hospitals, and VA medical centers.
- Lay a foundation for discussing residency in the next block.
- Outline the ways in which teaching hospitals, including most VA medical centers, are different from other hospitals. Focus on mission-oriented work, services provided, and types of patients treated.

SUGGESTED PRESENTERS

- Teaching hospital CEO
- Affiliated VA medical center representative

SUGGESTED TIME: 1 hour

KEY MESSAGES

- Teaching hospitals provide vital education to resident physicians; care for patients, including the most vulnerable with the most complex conditions; and conduct groundbreaking research.
- Academic medicine's collaboration with the VA provides more robust education for residents, greater access to care for veterans both inside and outside the VA system, and opportunities for partnerships on cutting-edge research.

KEY TOPICS

- Teaching hospitals, including most VA medical centers, have three missions.
 - Educate and train tomorrow's doctors
 - Conduct research to find tomorrow's cures and train future researchers
 - Provide care—which includes unique, critical services not found at other hospitals—to millions of Americans, including the most vulnerable and complex patients.

PROJECT MEDICAL EDUCATION



- How do teaching hospitals, including most VA medical centers, generally accomplish these missions?
 - How do they interact with medical schools?
 - How do they interact with researchers?
 - How do they interact with the community?
 - How do the three missions work together?
- How does your affiliated teaching hospital and/or VA medical center complete these missions?
 - What are some of your community programs?
 - Do you engage in training in underserved or rural areas?
 - How does this work improve the care you provide to patients and the education provided to residents?
- How are teaching hospitals financed?
 - Describe the indirect medical education (IME) add-on patient care payment with an education label intended to help offset the higher costs of the unique services teaching hospitals provide as a vital part of their academic mission.
 - Discuss reimbursements and other ways your institution is financed.

ACTIVITIES

- Visit a teaching hospital or VA medical center.
- Visit a community clinic or other community engagement site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Be sure to allot time for travel to external sites, if necessary.

RESOURCES

[*America's Medical Schools and Teaching Hospitals: We Are the Future of Health Care*](#) (PDF)

[*Sustaining Teaching Hospitals*](#) (webpage)

[*Helping Our Nation's Veterans*](#) (webpage)

[*70 Years of Innovation: The History of Educational Engagement at VA*](#) (GIF)

[*Graduate Medical Education Primers*](#) (video)