

HSR&D *Medical Care* Complementary and Integrative Health Supplemental Issue
“Evaluating Implementation and Effectiveness of Complementary and Integrative Health Approaches in the VA and Military Healthcare Systems”

Guest Editors: A. Rani Elwy, PhD and Stephanie L. Taylor, PhD

Thank you very much for your interest in submitting an abstract to the [Medical Care](#) supplemental issue on Complementary and Integrative Health (CIH) research in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and military healthcare systems, sponsored by VA Health Services Research and Development Service. This supplement is a follow on to our 2014 *Medical Care* special issue, “*Building the Evidence Base for Complementary and Integrative Medicine Use among Veterans and Military Personnel*”, sponsored by VA’s Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation and the Greater Los Angeles VA Healthcare System, which you can read [here](#).

Since this time, CIH has become an VA-wide priority and research to establish the CIH evidence-base among Veterans is now mandated by Congress. Many studies have examined the effectiveness of CIH and the larger Whole Health System of Care (WHS), in which CIH is an important component. The WHS is being implemented throughout the VA to facilitate the transformation to a system which empowers and equips people to take charge of their health and well-being through providing care aligned with patients’ personal health goals.

In this new supplemental issue, set to be published in September 2020, we seek to move beyond descriptive information on CIH services for Veterans, and instead report on clinical and implementation trials; pragmatic designs, including practice based research and pragmatic clinical trials; robust longitudinal studies; evaluation of system-wide implementation efforts; or any type of design that moves the field forward in terms of providing and evaluating CIH services and approaches to Veterans and active duty military populations.

Our 2019 timeline for this *Medical Care* CIH supplemental issue is as follows:

July 22: Abstract submissions (250 words), with headings of Background, Objective, Methods, Results, Conclusion and Impact, due via a portal on the HSR&D website

Abstract submission form:

https://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/for_researchers/medical-care-cih/abstract_submission.cfm

August 12: Notification of decisions for full paper submission will be emailed to first authors

November 1: Full papers to be uploaded to the *Medical Care editorial manager* website

Manuscripts will then follow the regular *Medical Care* timeline for peer review, with revisions and resubmissions as needed. All manuscripts will be finalized by June 2020 to meet the September 2020 publication date.

Any questions? Please contact Rani Elwy at rani_elwy@brown.edu or Rani.Elwy@va.gov or Stephanie Taylor at Stephanie.Taylor8@va.gov