

Design and Implementation of VA CoronavirUs Research and Efficacy Studies-1 (VA CURES-1): Lessons Learned

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Abstract

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the US, the Veterans Affairs (VA) has faced some new and evolving challenges in clinical research, especially in planning, prioritizing, and conducting new clinical research projects aimed at preventing or treating SARS CoV-2 infection/COVID-19 disease. The VA CoronavirUs Research and Efficacy Studies (VA CURES) network was established in a coordinated effort to develop a master protocol framework that could efficiently utilize the VA's clinical research infrastructure to address the COVID-19 pandemic. In this talk, we will present our experiences in the design and implementation of VA CURES-1, which was a double-blind, multi-site, randomized clinical trial evaluating the efficacy and safety of COVID-19 convalescent plasma in hospitalized patients with early respiratory compromise. We will also share lessons learned in conducting research in emergency situations.