Implementing eScreening in VHA to Improve Wellness for Veterans

James Pittman, PhD, LCSW
Center of Excellence for Stress and Mental Health
VA San Diego HCS
University of California, San Diego

eScreening

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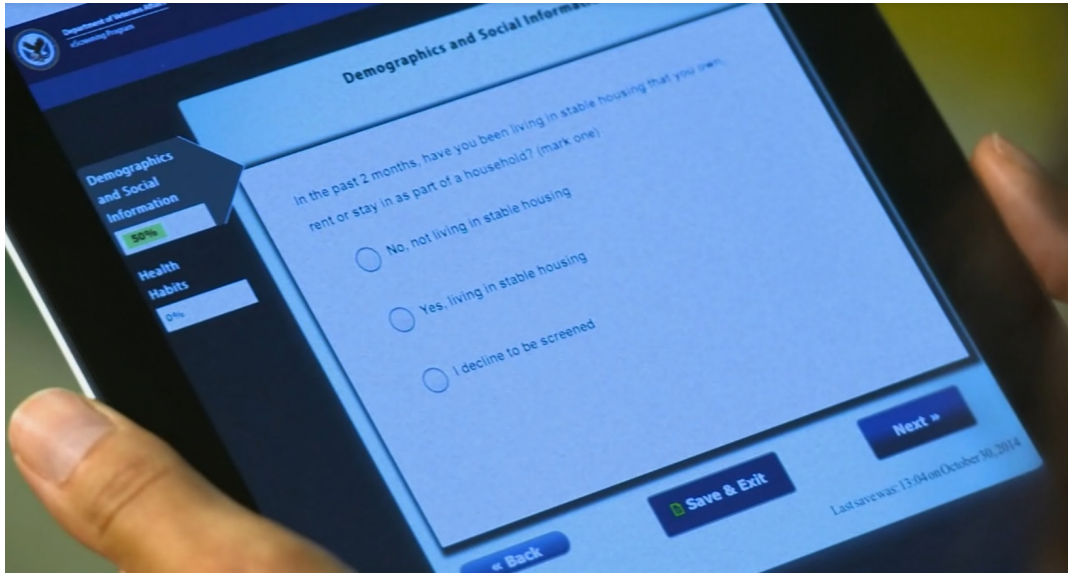
Background

- In 2010, CESAMH set out to develop a tool to aid early identification of health problems, screening, and triage.

- eScreening is a mobile self-screening tool efficiently and effectively collects health information and provides real-time feedback to patients and providers.



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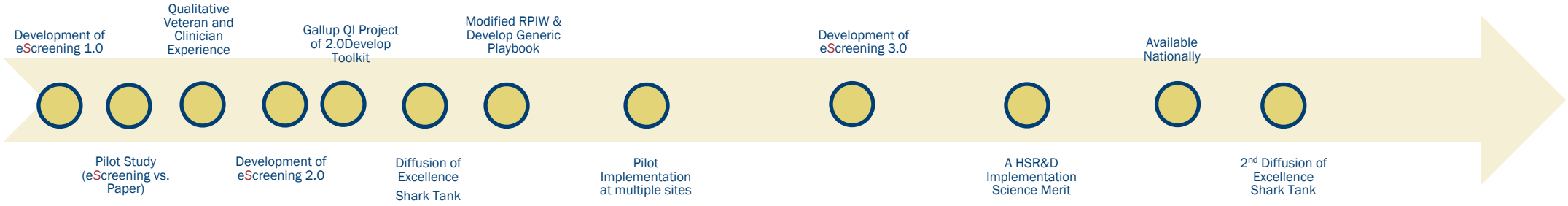
eScreening Timeline



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Features of eScreening

- Fully customizable remote data platform integrated with the electronic health record
- eScreening communicates with CPRS, reading and completing due clinical reminders, writing text notes, and satisfying measurement-based care for mental health
- eScreening provides a survey building experience on par with private sector
- Veterans can access screenings from any device with web connectivity
- Customizable dashboard alerts for real time monitoring of safety concerns
- eScreening is an evidenced-based clinical decision support tool

Selected Research Outcomes

- High Veteran satisfaction
- Time savings in documenting in medical record
- More likely to complete over paper-based screening
- More likely to receive consults for specialty care
- Greater efficiency in suicide-risk screening and comprehensive evaluation

- Pittman, J. O. E., Floto, E., Lindamer, L., Baker, D. G., Lohr, J. B., & Afari, N. (2017). VA eScreening program: Technology to improve care for post-9/11 veterans. *Psychological Services, 14*(1), 23–33. https://doi.org/10.1037/ser0000125
- Pittman, J.O.E., Afari, N., Floto, E. *et al.* Implementing eScreening technology in four VA clinics: a mixed-method study. *BMC Health Serv Res* **19,** 604 (2019). https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-019-4436-z
- Erin Almklov, PhD, Niloofar Afari, PhD, Elizabeth Floto, MS, Laurie Lindamer, PhD, Samantha Hurst, PhD, James O E Pittman, PhD, Post-9/11 Veteran Satisfaction With the VA eScreening Program, *Military Medicine*, Volume 185, Issue 3-4, March-April 2020, Pages 519–529, https://doi.org/10.1093/milmed/usz324

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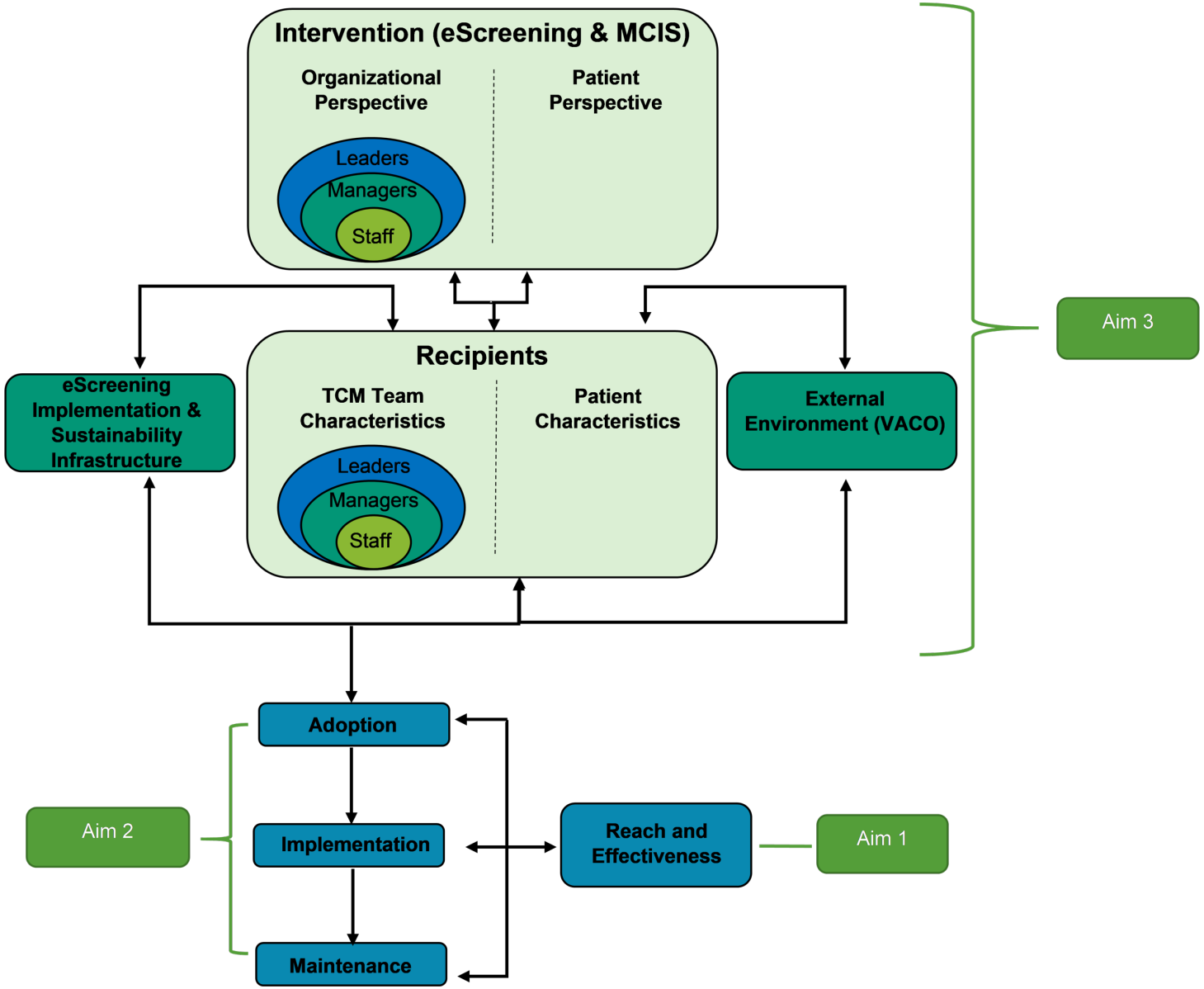
HSR&D MERIT Study Overview

- This is a mixed methods hybrid 2, effectiveness-implementation, stepped-wedge trial of eScreening in eight VHA sites. Our study aims address the questions of:
  - *1) whether screening with eScreening compared to oral and paper-based methods in transition and care management (TCM) programs is associated with improved rates (reach) and speed of PTSD, depression, alcohol, and suicide screening & evaluation, and increased referral to mental health treatment (effectiveness)*
  - *2) whether and to what degree our eScreening multi-component implementation strategy(MCIS) is feasible, acceptable, and has the potential to impact adoption, implementation, and maintenance of eScreening*
  - *3) how contextual factors influence the implementation of eScreening between high and low eScreening adopting sites*.

PRISM Model



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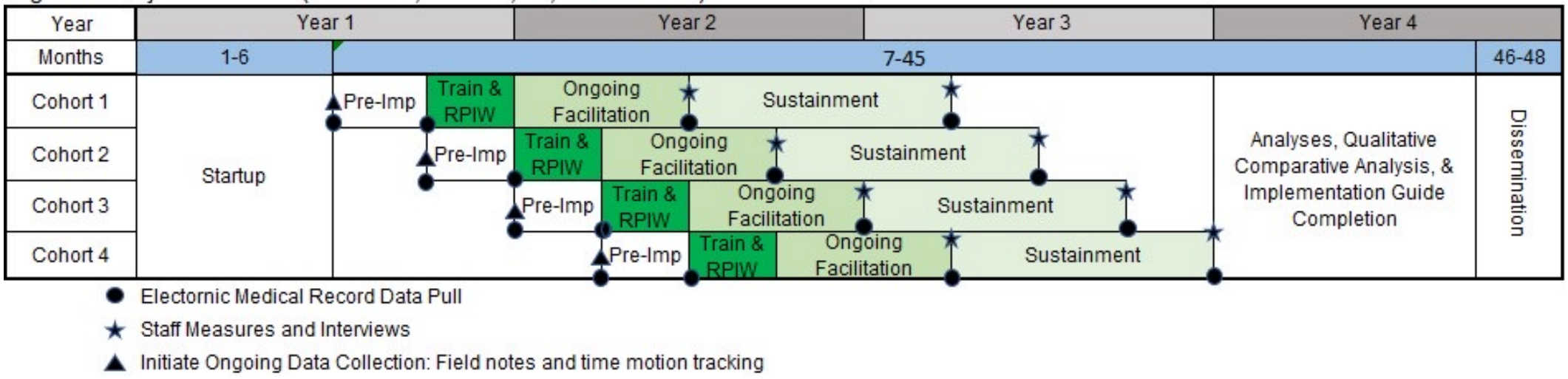
Study Timeline

Figure 2. Project Overview (N=8 Sites, 45 Staff, 27,600 Veterans)



Current Use

- 60 sites have implemented or are in in pre-implementation planning
- ~15,000 eScreening assessments were completed in FY19-21
- ~15,000 for FY22
- ~100k have been completed nationally since inception
- Primary and specialty care programs are in pre-implementation phases at multiple sites
- National collaborations with M2VA, Whole Health, and PACT Act
- HSR&D QI Project Race/Ethnicity Module

Support for eScreening

- Won 2022 Innovations Ecosystem Shark Tank competition
- In 2016, the eScreening program was named a Gold Standard Practice for diffusion throughout VHA by the Under-Secretary for Health.
- Executive Sponsor– Office of Healthcare Innovation and Learning
- Kit Teague, Executive Director of Innovations Ecosystem
- Angela Gant-Curtis, OIT Innovation/Emerging Technologies

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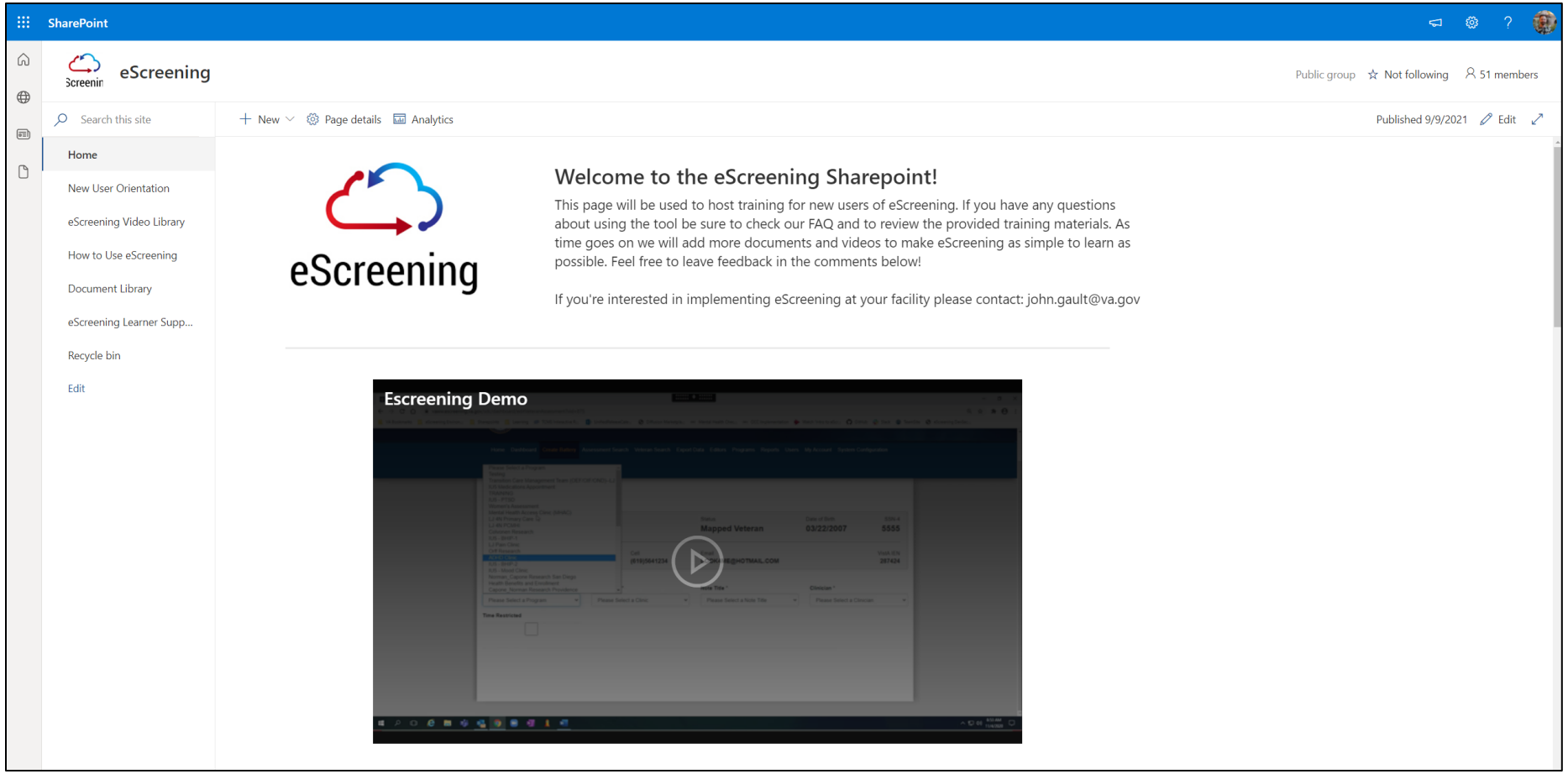
eScreening Sharepoint

- https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/vhaescreening



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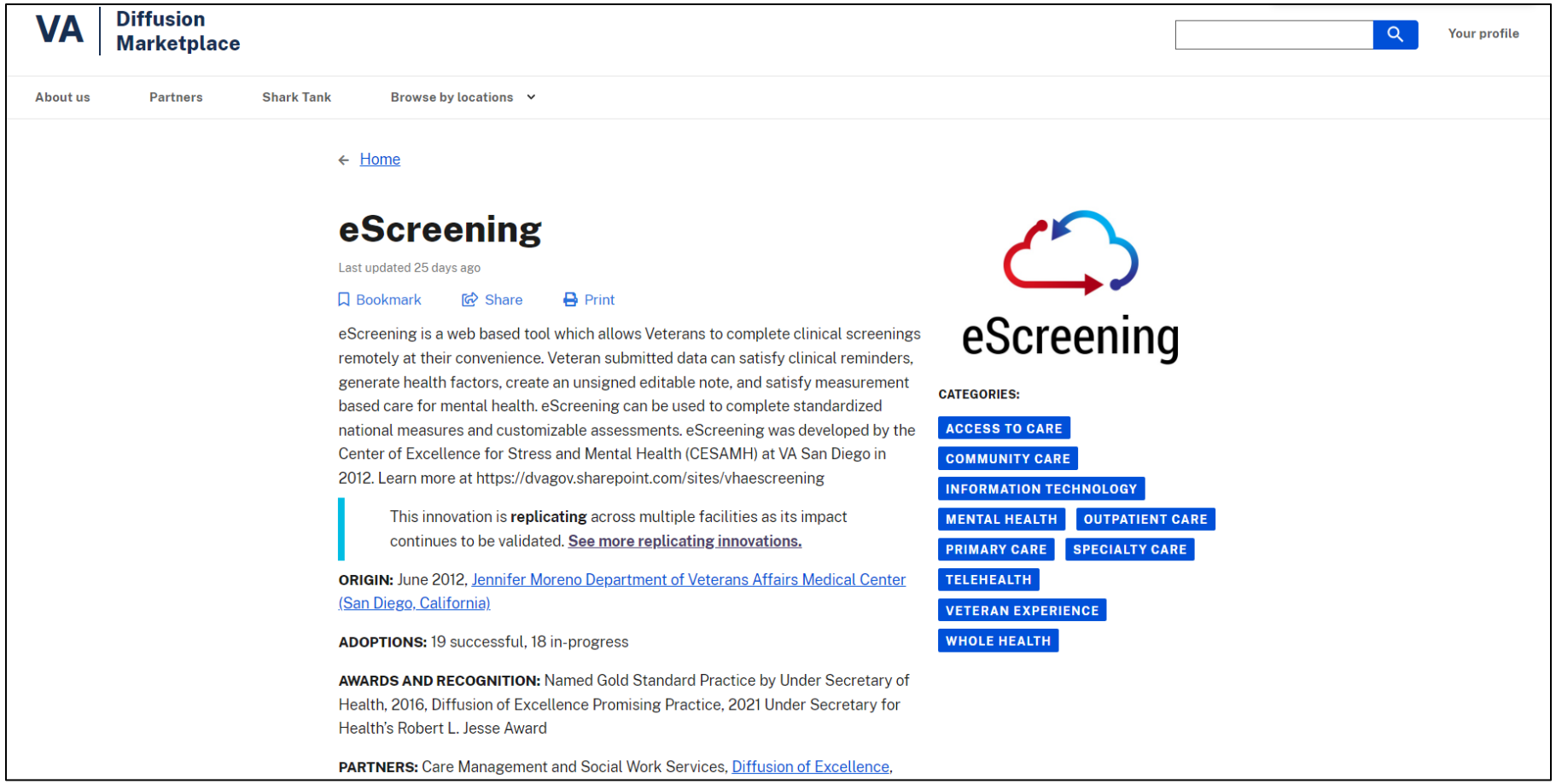
Diffusion Marketplace

- https://marketplace.va.gov/innovations/e-screening



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Questions & Discussion

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