

# Research and Program Assessment Data

## CURRENT CLINICAL PRACTICE FOR TINNITUS: 2021 SURVEY RESULTS-ALL PROVIDERS

Operational performance and quality of life can be impacted by tinnitus, which is the #1 service-connected disability. A multi-disciplinary approach is key to managing patients with bothersome tinnitus. For this Quality Improvement Project, the team sent out the Understanding Practices of Tinnitus Collaborative Survey (UPTiCS) to VA and DoD providers (audiology, otolaryngology, primary care, and mental/behavioral health). The intent was to understand current management practices for patients with tinnitus and identify opportunities for further development. Responses were received from 669 providers.

### Key takeaways:

- ◆ Audiologists felt confident in their roles and abilities. The other specialties were quite mixed as to whether they should and could provide care for patients with tinnitus.
- ◆ A clinical champion (audiologist or mental health provider) spearheading the creation of a tinnitus program was the most-often identified facilitator to comprehensive care. The barriers reported most were needs for resources and training.
- ◆ Future plans to encourage a multi-disciplinary approach include awareness campaigns for providers and patients, as well as training and resource development (to include a clinical champion toolkit).

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