



# News Release

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*For Immediate Release*

## **Phoenix VA Researchers participating in Prostate Cancer Prevention**

September is Prostate Cancer Awareness month so it is the perfect time to remember to schedule your screening if you are a male over age 50. It can also be a good time to get involved in a prostate cancer prevention study. VA Researchers at the Carl T. Hayden VAMC in Phoenix are currently participating in a selenium and vitamin E prostate cancer prevention trial as part of an international research study underway in over 400 sites in North America.

The "SELECT" trial, as it is called, is currently enrolling African American male veterans age 50 and older, and all other male veterans age 55 and older to participate in this important study. As a participant, veterans who meet the eligibility criteria can be enrolled after routine screening tests are performed. All participants will then take two capsules that could contain vitamin E, selenium, or a placebo. Participants will also receive a quality multivitamin for themselves and their significant other. There is no cost to them for the study supplements or the multivitamins.

"We are looking to enroll 500 veterans into our study at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center in Phoenix," said Dr. Peter Auriemma, Principal Investigator for this study. "Of those veterans participating, we are hoping to enroll a large number of African American men since they are at the highest risk for developing prostate cancer. Because they are at such high risk, the age guideline for the participation of African American men is 50 years of age and older," he said.

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*The Carl T. Hayden Veterans Affairs Medical Center has been serving veterans in Maricopa County since 1951. We are a level one tertiary care facility that offers a variety of services to more than 60,000 veterans. We currently have 150 inpatient beds for medical and surgical patients, 110 beds for nursing home patients and 48 inpatient beds for mental health patients. We are actively involved in training new medical and surgical residents to become certified physicians and are committed to medical research to help find cures for illness and disease. Our five core values are trust, respect, excellence, commitment and compassion. We are honored to serve our veterans who have paid the price for us to enjoy our freedoms.*

After skin cancer, prostate cancer is the most common type of cancer among men in the United States. In Arizona alone, the estimated number of men newly diagnosed with prostate cancer this year is expected to be 3,300. Of these, it is also estimated that 500 men will die from prostate cancer.

Treatment for prostate cancer has many significant side effects including impotence and incontinence. It is the hope that the SELECT Trial will be able to help prevent this devastating cancer that affects so many American men.

The study is currently in the second year of its recruitment period. Veterans do not have to be current VA patients to enroll in the study. However, they do need to meet VA eligibility requirements consisting of an honorable discharge with two years of active duty service. For additional information, please call Grace McGill, R.N., B.S.N., Research Coordinator for the SELECT study at the Carl T. Hayden VAMC at (602) 222-5551 ext. 6786.

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