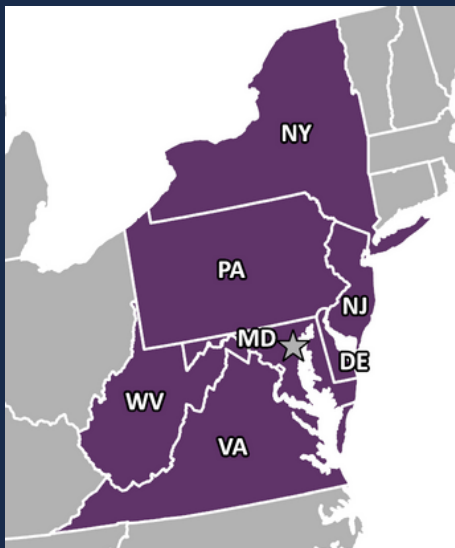


AHRQ Long COVID Care Network

Supporting Patients Recovering From COVID-19 (SPaRC)



Institution

Johns Hopkins University

Geographic Service Area

Mid-Atlantic region

Priority Population

Older adults, marginalized racial and ethnic populations, socioeconomically disadvantaged groups, and geographically distant and rural populations

Project Period

2024–2029

Contact

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Project Overview

The Johns Hopkins Post-Acute COVID-19 Team (JH PACT) launched in April 2020 in Baltimore, MD. The JH PACT program uses a comprehensive multidisciplinary approach that includes psychiatry, physical therapy, rehabilitation psychology, neuropsychology, and pulmonary medicine. The clinic offers both in-person and telemedicine services to patients with Long COVID throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.

As part of the AHRQ Long COVID Care Network, JH PACT continues to develop and grow through the “Supporting Patients Recovering from COVID” (SPaRC) program. This program focuses on expanding clinical and social work services, enhancing peer support, and increasing outreach and telemedicine services to underserved communities. To further enhance the quality of Long COVID care among clinicians, the clinic is developing a Long COVID curriculum and a living toolkit for ongoing education and training of healthcare professionals caring for patients with Long COVID.

Notable Features

- JH PACT is implementing targeted approaches for older adults and individuals with complex needs or social risks. For older adults, the team will use the Age-Friendly Health System, which employs the 4Ms framework—What Matters, Medication, Mentation, and Mobility—to deliver comprehensive, patient-centered care. To address social risks, JH PACT is adopting a standardized screening process for social determinants of health. Additionally, the team prioritizes engagement through social workers and community health workers to provide targeted support.
- JH PACT is creating a coalition to work with local communities to address social determinants of health linked to Long COVID. This coalition will bring together primary care providers, community-based organizations, and patient and stakeholder representatives. The coalition aims to strengthen SPaRC’s efforts to develop and enhance strategies to promote health equity, reduce disparities, and support individuals with Long COVID.

Project Goal: Advancing, Evaluating and Iteratively Refining Comprehensive Multi-disciplinary Care for Patients With Long COVID

Specific Aims

JH PACT aims to 1) deliver a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary program (SPaRC) to people with Long COVID with an expanded focus on underserved populations, 2) evaluate and refine the SPaRC Long COVID program to increase access and improve patient-centered, evidence-based healthcare delivery, and 3) partner with regional Long COVID stakeholders, including primary care providers, to create and expand access to comprehensive, patient-centered, coordinated Long COVID care across the Mid-Atlantic region.

Delivering and Refining SPaRC: Expanding Multidisciplinary Long COVID Care

The SPaRC program will build upon the existing expertise of the JH PACT multidisciplinary Long COVID outpatient program to expand clinic capacity and reduce wait times. It aims to extend services to diverse patient populations, including older adults, individuals from marginalized racial and ethnic backgrounds, socioeconomically disadvantaged groups, and those in geographically distant or rural areas, by strengthening partnerships with community-based organizations. To achieve these objectives, JH PACT plans to recruit and train a clinical social worker and a community health worker, and develop peer support services. Additionally, the program will provide comprehensive health literacy training for all staff.

The SPaRC program will be assessed and refined quarterly through a mixed-methods evaluation within a learning health system. This will include analyzing patient data from electronic medical records and conducting semi-structured qualitative interviews with patients to inform and enhance implementation strategies and clinical approaches.

By the Numbers

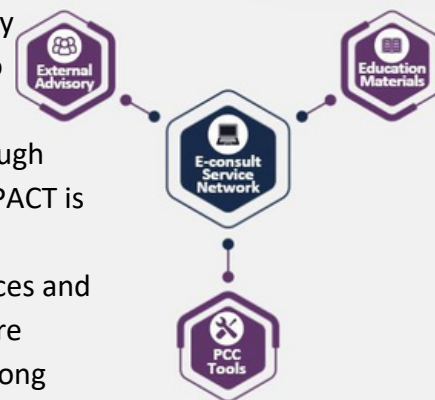
- JH PACT has supported over **1,500** patients and conducted over **6,000** visits
- The SPaRC program aims to increase capacity by **15%** annually to meet the needs of new patients

Partnering With Regional Stakeholders to Expand Patient-Centered Long COVID Care

JH PACT is launching a regional multidisciplinary learning collaborative to broaden access to Long COVID knowledge. Through the SPaRC program, JH PACT is expanding provider-to-provider e-consult services and developing an online core curriculum focused on Long COVID. Additionally, the team will create a toolkit for both clinician training and patient education, which will be regularly updated to incorporate the latest evidence and best practices.

An external advisory council, consisting of researchers, clinicians, patient-family partners, organizational representatives, and other key stakeholders, will provide ongoing feedback to continuously refine and advance the educational resources and processes related to Long COVID care.

To measure the effectiveness of these efforts, clinicians and stakeholders will complete surveys assessing their satisfaction, self-efficacy, and perceived knowledge immediately after educational trainings, sessions, and e-consultations. Additionally, semi-structured interviews will be conducted with primary care clinicians to assess satisfaction, barriers to implementation, acceptability and modifications to the core curriculum and toolkit.



“SPaRC will build a coalition to strengthen collaboration with, and support for, primary care providers.”

- Ann Parker, Principal Investigator



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