



**News Release:**

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**TATRC, ASPR, SCCM & FSMB COLLABORATE FOR CRITICAL CARE CLINICIANS TO JOIN VIRTUAL COVID-19 FIGHT**

*TATRC launches NEW NETCCN Portal to allow clinicians to volunteer virtual services and for healthcare organizations in need of critical care expertise to request help.*

**For Immediate Release – January 19, 2021**

The U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command’s (USAMRDC) Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC), in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response (HHS/ASPR), the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) and the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) has launched a new site to expand the capacity and reach of its National Tele-Critical Care Network (NETCCN) project. The site can be found at: [www.TATRC.org/NETCCN](http://www.TATRC.org/NETCCN).

NETCCN can bring high quality, emergency and critical care support to any bedside at any time, a prime challenge for healthcare organizations responding to the surge of COVID-19 hospitalizations.

“Where there are no ICUs, there are no critical care experts. And, especially during surges, even places with normally robust critical care capacity can reach saturation. Fundamentally, NETCCN is designed to be rapidly deployed via smartphone, easy to use, and intended to help with tiered staffing models where local clinicians can have a critical care trained expert in the palm of their hand,” said COL Jeremy Pamplin, TATRC’s Director and a critical care physician.

NETCCN is an evolving network of clinical care teams that provide expert medical advice, particularly related to the management of critical illness from severe COVID-19 infection, to any individual who needs it using mobile device applications. The simple act of supporting local caregivers from family member to nurse, to general practitioner to surgeon – anyone without critical care knowledge, skills, or abilities – with expertise from remote tele-critical care specialists, enables these caregivers to provide more support to patients than would otherwise be possible.

TATRC’s new [www.TATRC.org/NETCCN](http://www.TATRC.org/NETCCN) portal allows interested clinicians - individually or in groups - to volunteer their services in support to help those communities in need.

“As part of NETCCN, a team of volunteers from the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) is already lending their virtual expertise in the care of patients in the upper Midwest. While we understand the stress that our community is under, we hope that NETCCN allows our members to contribute to the fight against COVID-19 when and where it’s needed,” said Dr. Benjamin Scott, who leads the SCCM Tele-Critical Care Workgroup.

Because NETCCN operates from any smartphone, participation in NETCCN can begin as soon as clinicians complete an application on the TATRC portal, pass the screening, complete the training and are credentialed to a site in need.

TATRC is employing [www.ProviderBridge.org](http://www.ProviderBridge.org) to rapidly credential and resolve potential cross-state licensure issues related to tele-critical care. Provider Bridge, a platform powered by FSMB with funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), provides access to a database of information for verified, volunteer clinicians willing to provide telehealth services during such emergencies.

TATRC's NETCCN Portal also allows healthcare organizations to request assistance in caring for COVID patients.

"While providers should first seek available state and local assistance, NETCCN stands ready and able to fill in gaps for those in need. From providing additional clinical capacity during a surge, to helping on nights and weekends, giving a second set of eyes or brains or assisting with palliative care at home or in the hospital, NETCCN can help," said COL Pamplin.

To date, NETCCN teams have delivered tele-critical care for hundreds of COVID-19 patients in hospitals and at home to assist healthcare organizations in Iowa, Guam, Minnesota, North Dakota, Puerto Rico and South Dakota. NETCCN is funded through The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act by the HHS/ASPR and USAMRDC.

For more detailed information about the new NETCCN portal, including how clinicians and other caregivers can volunteer to deliver care and how healthcare organizations can request support from NETCCN, please visit: <https://www.TATRC.org/NETCCN/>.

#### **About TATRC:**

U.S. Army's Telemedicine & Advanced Technology Research Center's (TATRC) is engaged in essential medical research focused on advanced medical technologies and is dedicated to bringing innovative telehealth solutions to the Warfighter and the Military Health System. TATRC fosters research on health informatics, telemedicine / m-Health, medical training systems and computational biology to address gaps in DoD medical research programs and military healthcare.

For more information on TATRC, please visit: <https://www.tatrc.org/www/resources/covid-19.html>.