The Center for Health Quality, Outcomes and Economic Research (CHQOER), a VA HSR&D Field Program located at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital, Bedford, Massachusetts was established on November 1, 1990. The Center has linked its structure, operations and research themes with the health services research expertise present at Boston University, including the Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH) and the Boston University Department of Medicine's Section of General Internal Medicine.

The Center's research agenda focuses on three main areas that reflect the overall goal of improving the quality of care that Veteran patients receive: health quality assessment, outcome measurement, and health economics. The methodologies developed at the Center incorporate complementary approaches—considering the patient's as well as the provider's perspective, and using functional as well as physiological parameters. Given the ever increasing cost constraints on providing health care to the Veteran population, CHQOER's research has focused on areas that provide insight into improving both the quality of care that patients receive as well as the efficiency by which the care is provided.

During FY03, CHQOER continued its success in obtaining VA HSR&D and external peer reviewed funding, and recruitment of key research personnel, and increased its overall funding to over 12.5 million dollars. Besides increased funding from VA HRS&D, CHQOER investigators have received grants from NIH, AHCPR, Department of Defense, MA Dept. of Public Health, and the VHA Headquarters Office of Performance and Planning to conduct health services research studies. In addition, CHQOER has recruited a new full-time faculty member and two Post-Doctoral Fellows.