

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

VA IQ Task number: 7193942
(12 January 2012/ 11:50am)

VA/SSA/DoD 4th Report to Congress Brief: DEPSEC VA requested an update on VA/SSA/DoD 4th Report to Congress.

Background:

- This is the fourth joint report of the ongoing efforts of the three agencies.
- VA plans to use the Nationwide Health Information Network (NwHIN).
- DoD, based on their mission, decided to rely on a more expedient interim solution.
- Initial draft of the 4th report stated that VA was not going to collaborate with SSA and DoD on developing joint Disability Benefit Questionnaires (DBQs). ED VLER directed that language to be changed as he is synchronizing collaboration with SSA and DoD to develop joint DBQs.

Questions and Answers:

1. Is this effort being fully coordinated with VLER?
- Yes. ED VLER is synchronizing this for VA with VHA and VBA support.
2. Why is an interim solution being developed rather than using one of the VLER-related NwHIN approaches?
- VA is using NwHIN interim and long term. DoD had another, quicker and cheaper method available to use as the interim. They are using it to provide a quicker solution at less cost.
3. What is the plan to sunset the interim pilot and replace it with an approach that supports VLER and the ONC portfolio of national health information exchange mechanisms?
-VA is not doing an interim solution so there is no need for a sunset plan.
4. Are resources (human/economic) being used for an interim solution being drawn away from VLER implementation? Could they instead be used to further VLER?
-No, this effort is consistent with the overall VLER approach.
5. Does this decrease focus on the overarching VLER strategy?
- This is somewhat of a distraction/resource drain from the core NwHIN effort and the core VLER (beyond NwHIN) effort. However, we are balancing it.

Summary:

PRE-DECISIONAL DRAFT

Ongoing collaboration continues with the agencies (VA/SSA/DoD/EOP) to address the DBQ and NwHIN issues related to this 4th Report to Congress. We remain on track to deliver the Report to Congress in Feb 2012.

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