The Veterans Health Information Exchange (VHIE) also known as the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) Health Program is a Veteran-focused portfolio of programs that gives VA and authorized Community Care Partner secure access to certain parts of a Veteran’s electronic health record for the purpose of care coordination across the health care continuum.

There are currently two health information exchange (HIE) systems within VHIE: VA Exchange and VA Direct Messaging.

VA Exchange is a national, secure network of trusted partners that allows VA or participating community care providers to request and receive medical information about a specific Veteran they are caring for. The VA Exchange program is rapidly expanding and now exchanges health data with over 95 Healthcare Organizations across the Nation, reaching over 800 hospitals, more than 14,000 clinics and thousands of pharmacies. Exchange allows VA providers and community health care providers to find, receive and send Veterans’ health information from each other’s organizations for treatment (system to system).

VA Direct Messaging (Direct) allows VA users to send and receive specific information to authorized community care providers via secure email-like messaging under a trusted network (point to point). Direct has 95 community health care providers in production.
How VA is using Health Information Exchange to “Connect Your Docs”?

Patient Safety

A patient came in for a visit with complaints that appeared to resemble symptoms of medication toxicity. Yet he reported that he was taking his medication as prescribed. During the patient interview the patient mentioned that his private provider was also treating him. When the physician viewed the NwHIN medication summary, he found that the patient was taking the generic medication as prescribed for his condition by the VA provider and the same medication, under a brand name, that his private provider had prescribed, and so, was in fact taking a double dose of the same medication.

Maternity Care

Recently, a VA Maternity Care Coordinator shared how the benefits of using the Veterans Health Information Exchange (VHIE) which is hosted by the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Health Record (VLER) to receive medical records in a timely manner, helped her coordinate care for Veteran Patients.

In the first example, a Veteran called to discuss her maternity care and the Maternity Coordinator was able to view her encounter from the day before at her Community Care Obstetrics (OB) Office. The Coordinator was able to see her lab results and share them with her within 24 hours of completing them. Care coordination at its best, as described by the Maternity Care Coordinator!

New Partner Announcements:

VA Direct Messaging program validated with 31 new Community Care Providers (CCPs) in 2nd Quarter FY 17, bringing the total since inception to 95 CCPs. Through business validation, VA is able to ensure there is Direct connectivity with the CCP as well as identify the message payloads which can be shared between VA and the CCP. VA Direct Messaging will continue to work with the applicable VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) regarding workflows, use cases, and registering/training end users.

New validated partners:

- Univ. of Pittsburgh Med Ctr. – Lab only (Pittsburgh, PA)
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (Anchorage, AK)
- Elliot Health Systems (Manchester, NH)
- San Antonio Regional Hospital (Upland, CA)
- Moffitt Cancer Center (Tampa, FL)
- Borgess Community Care Providers (3 Hospitals)
- Sharon Hospital (Sharon, PA)
- St. Claire Regional Medical Center (Morehead, KY)
- Baptist Health Community Care Providers (KY) (7 Hospitals)
- University of Colorado Health (UCHealth) Community Care Providers (CO) (7 Hospitals)

For a complete listing of all Community Care Providers validated with VA Direct Messaging, click here.
As of March 2017, the Veteran Health Information Exchange (VHIE) program has added 9 new Exchange Partners for a total of 97 partners and are pleased to announce that the following partners are now available for bi-directional health information exchange with VA, for a complete listing of all participating Exchange Partners, click [here](#).

**New Exchange Community Partners:**

- University of Miami (FL)
- Centra (VA)
- Johns Hopkins Medicine (MD)
- Bronson Healthcare Group (MI)
- Rhode Island HIE (RI)
- Wellstar Health System (GA)
- SLUCare (MO)
- Asante (OR)
- Centura Health (CO)