ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MODERNIZATION
TRANSFORMING HEALTH CARE FOR VETERANS, REVOLUTIONIZING HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to providing seamless care for Veterans, including access to a comprehensive electronic health record (EHR).

In May 2018, VA awarded Cerner Corp. a contract to replace its current EHR systems with the same commercial off-the-shelf EHR — Cerner Millennium — currently being deployed by the Department of Defense (DOD). The Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) initiative is leveraging this new system, which will be shared by DOD, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and participating community care providers, to give VA staff access to a complete view of the care Veterans received during their military service and in the private sector. By storing Veteran health records in a common system, VA will eliminate the current reliance on multiple complex clinical interfaces and manual data entry. The new EHR system will provide clinicians with quick and efficient access to data, improving VA's delivery of health care to our nation's Veterans.

The Electronic Health Record Modernization Integration Office (EHRM-IO) provides program management and oversight of the EHRM implementation effort.

THE EHRM EFFORT HAS THREE MAJOR COMPONENTS

1. Implement the same EHR system as DOD and USCG — a system that is interoperable with community care providers and enables the seamless sharing of Veteran records from active duty and beyond.

2. Provide Veterans and clinicians with a complete picture of a patient's medical history, driving connections between military service and health outcomes through data analytics.

3. Offer an improved and more consistent patient scheduling experience at VA medical facilities and community care partners nationwide.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

Since fiscal year (FY) 2021, the EHRM program made great progress, completing five deployments of the new EHR system, bringing the number of facilities using the new EHR to five VA medical centers, 22 community-based outpatient clinics and 52 remote sites with more than 10,000 end users serving more than 200,000 Veterans.

Achievements by the numbers:

- Migrated more than 131 billion initial operating capability records from VA sources into the new EHR system, bringing the total number of records migrated since the beginning of the EHRM program to more than 273.8 billion.

- The program has standardized over 216 capabilities, which are functions of the EHR that allow health care providers to coordinate hundreds of crucial activities, such as ordering lab tests, scheduling procedures and managing hospital beds.**

- Thanks to the joint health information exchange, a secure network that shares a patient's medical history, 65% of all U.S. hospitals are now connected to VA and its federal partners.*

- Fully trained 6,832 end users through one or more EHRM-IO programs, with a total of 12,026 programs completed.

- Partnered with Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and Oracle Cerner experts to develop a report of 74 operational metrics that measure and monitor foundational work performed by the facilities using the new EHR system.

Data current as of June 2022
** Data current as of March 2021
Sources: VA EHRM-IO program and the Federal Electronic Health Record Modernization office

THE WAY AHEAD

VA is rolling out its new EHR at facilities across the country over the course of several years. The department will continue to maintain and support its legacy EHR systems throughout this period until every VA medical facility has the new EHR system, ensuring that current patient records are accessible and there is no interruption in the delivery of quality care.

After the full EHR deployment is complete, VA clinicians nationwide will have a complete and accurate record of each patient's health history, improving the overall quality of health care provided to our nation's Veterans.

EHRM JOURNEY

- **JUNE 5, 2017:** Determinations and Findings report published
- **MAY 17, 2018:** VA EHR contract awarded
- **JUNE 25, 2018:** VA's Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization established
- **SEPT. 24, 2018:** Model validation event held
- **NOVEMBER 2018 - SEPTEMBER 2019:** Eight national workshops held
- **JUNE 11, 2019:** VITAL Session 1
- **OCT. 22, 2019:** VITAL Session 2
- **APRIL 18, 2020:** VA and DOD launch joint health information exchange (HIE)
- **AUG. 21, 2020:** Centralized Scheduling Solution (CSS) implemented at the VA Central Ohio Healthcare System
- **OCT. 1, 2020:** VA completes patient data migration
- **OCT. 9, 2020:** Joint HIE network expanded to include community providers
- **OCT. 24, 2020:** EHR go-live at Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center
- **MAY 2021:** VA conducts strategic review of EHRM program
- **DECEMBER 2021:** VA announces revised governance structure and creates EHRM Integration Office

Model validation event: VA's EHR councils began the national and local workflow development process, evaluating Cerner's capabilities and implementing commercial best practices while configuring EHR workflows to best serve the needs of Veterans.

National workshops: Workshops educate diverse clinical end users and validate workflows to ensure VA's new EHR system meets the department's needs.

VA Innovative Technology Advancement Lab (VITAL): VITAL teaches users how to use the EHR and its tools by collaboratively solving real-world problems identified by VA participants. VITAL was designed to increase EHRM adoption and speed-to-value, promote standardization and optimize the use of advanced analytics.

Joint health information exchange (HIE): The joint HIE securely shares patient health information (e.g., prescriptions, allergies, illnesses, lab results, etc.) among VA, DOD, USCG and participating community providers, creating a more complete picture of a Veteran's health history.

Centralized Scheduling Solution (CSS): CSS allows health care providers making appointments for Veterans to block resources (e.g., equipment, personnel and rooms) in real time using a single application. This helps Veterans receive more efficient care during visits.

Data migration: VA migrated the records of approximately 23.9 million unique Veterans, encompassing 21 domains of clinical information, to a data center shared with DOD and USCG.