

EHRM Why Statement Talking Points for VHA Leadership

On Oct. 18, 2018, at the EHRM National Executive Alignment event in Washington, D.C., 70 top leaders from the Veterans Health Administration, Electronic Health Record Modernization Integration Office (EHRM-IO, formerly the Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization) and Cerner Corp. convened to build a compelling statement to answer the question, “Why are we doing what we’re doing?” These dedicated leaders rolled up their sleeves, put pen to paper, and drafted statements about why Electronic Health Record Modernization is critical for VA and our nation’s Veterans. After, leaders completed a consensus-building activity where they evaluated and narrowed in on the precise wording.

The final “Why Statement” was voted into consensus Nov. 8, 2018:

“Electronic Health Record Modernization is transforming health care for Veterans, revolutionizing health care for all.”

WHAT DOES THE WHY STATEMENT REPRESENT?

- The new electronic health record (EHR) will transform health care for Veterans by giving VA clinicians, staff, and community providers the ability to see a Veteran’s full medical history in one location without the Veteran or provider needing to track down previous clinical information from within VA and community providers.
- The new EHR will transform health care for Veterans by providing a seamless and paperless transition from receiving care as a service member at the Department of Defense (DOD) to receiving care as a Veteran at VA facilities.
- VA has been a leader in health care technology since developing the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) over 40 years ago. The transition to the new EHR will return VA to the forefront



by creating the largest EHR in the country while utilizing the innovation developed within VA over the years.

- VA will revolutionize health care for all by utilizing contemporary VA best practices and Cerner commercial best practices to create a new standard of care and interoperability throughout the United States that the health care industry will learn from.
- By implementing the same EHR platform and sharing the same source of health care data, VA and DOD will store patient information from different doctors, pharmacies, labs, etc., in the same format, one that is quickly accessible and easy to use, revolutionizing the way health care is delivered.