



Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Electronic Health Record Modernization Joint Commitment

September 26, 2018

The Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs are jointly committed to implementing a single, seamlessly integrated electronic health record (EHR) that will accurately and efficiently share health data between our two agencies and ensure health record interoperability with our networks of supporting community healthcare providers. It remains a shared vision and mission to provide users with the best possible patient-centered EHR solution and related platforms in support of the lifetime care of our Service members, Veterans, and their families.

The importance, magnitude, and overall financial investment of our EHR modernization efforts demand the alignment of plans, strategies, and structure across the two Departments. To this end, the DoD and VA will institute an optimal organizational design that prioritizes accountability and effectiveness, while continuing to advance unity, synergy, and efficiencies between our two Departments. Together, our two Departments will develop a more efficient overall construct and plan of execution that includes:

- An accountability mechanism that facilitates coordinated decision making and oversight;
- An organizational structure that supports the delivery of a single, seamlessly integrated EHR that maximizes commercial health record interoperability;
- Optimally coordinated clinical and business workflows, operations, data management, and technology solutions;
- A detailed implementation timeline.

The DoD and VA EHR modernization teams continue to work their respective EHR program implementations, while maximizing collaborative strategies, opportunities, and projects whenever possible. We cannot think of a more vital mission than caring for the men and women who faithfully serve, and have served our country. It is imperative that the DoD and VA work together to promote the best use of resources in pursuit of our common EHR modernization goals and objectives.

James N. Mattis
Secretary of Defense

Robert L. Wilkie
Secretary of Veterans Affairs