Pharmacy Product System – National (PPS-N)

Release Notes

Version 1.1

July 2014

Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Information and Technology (OIT)
Product Development (PD)

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1. Introduction

The goal of the Pharmacy Reengineering (PRE) project is to replace the current M-based suite of pharmacy applications with a system that will better meet the current and expected business needs for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and address the ever-changing patient safety issues. PRE is intended to build on the work accomplished in 2006 with the development of the Pharmacy Enterprise Product System (PEPS) Proof of Concept (POC). The first phase, PRE V.0.5, implements enhanced order checking functionality utilizing HealtheVet (HeV) compatible architecture and First Databank Drug Information Framework (FDB-DIF) Application Program Interfaces (APIs) and database. The Pharmacy Product System-National (PPS-N) is a component of PRE that is intended to provide the ability to manage pharmacy-specific data across the VA enterprise, ensuring that all facilities are using the same base data for their operations. It allows approved national VA personnel to easily, quickly, and safely manage the VA National Formulary which directs which products (such as medications and supplies) are to be purchased and used by the VA hospital system.

In response to the Project Management Accountability System (PMAS) initiative instituted in the summer of 2009 that requires projects to complete an increment every six months, PRE now uses an Agile Development methodology, which focuses on developing a usable product at the end of small, iterative timeframes, with involvement and approval from the product owner at every iteration. Each small timeframe, called a sprint, ends with a workable product that is built on the previous efforts until the increment is complete and meets the PMAS schedule. Each increment produces agreed-upon functionality that is available to the entire user community upon National Deployment.

PPS-N v1.0, the initial version, was deployed to production in the beginning of 2013. In the beginning of 2014, PPS-N v1.0.01 was deployed to production to address issues, and will remain in production until PPS-N v1.1 is deployed.

This Release Notes document provides a brief description of the new features and functions of PPS-N v1.1.

2. Enhancements

PPS-N v1.1 provides only architectural enhancements.

2.1. Architectural Enhancements

- PPS-N updated from FDB-DIF 3.2 to FDB-DIF 3.3 API and Schema