Welcome to the Biweekly integrated Electronic Health Record (iEHR) Update! iEHR is a collaborative partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Defense (DoD) to modernize health care information systems and achieve significant improvement in the capturing, storing, and sharing of electronic health information. I will be sending out a biweekly email with information on iEHR program news that may be of interest to you. ███████ ██ ██ ███████████████████████████ *I hope you find these updates beneficial.*

The updates below cover iEHR activities from Sep 5 – Oct 4, 2013:

IPO Data Accelerator Update

In February 2013, the Secretaries of DoD and VA directed the Interagency Program Office (IPO) to "… focus our immediate efforts on integrating VA and DoD health data as quickly as possible, by focusing on interoperability…" The Secretaries directed the IPO to specifically focus on near-term accelerators – including Data Interoperability and development of a Medical Community of Interest (Med-COI) – for creating the integrated electronic health record.

The IPO recently conducted an Accelerator Design Review and Med-COI Progress Review to assess the functional, technical, and programmatic activities being executed that contribute to DoD and VA health data interoperability. Approximately 200 people attended the two-day session, either in person or by phone.

The Data Interoperability accelerator has five initiatives to be completed by December 31, 2013:

- Terminology Mapping
- Logical Federation of DoD and VA Data
- Federation of Real Time Data
- Patient Access to Blue Button
- Clinician Access to Federated Data

The December delivery is a "threshold" delivery that brings an initial capability to the nine Janus sites and covers seven joint VA and DoD clinical domains. The architecture will be deployed by July 2014 and will include eight additional clinical domains for interoperability. The remaining domains will be prioritized by clinicians and implemented in 2014-15.

Establishing a joint Med-COI to enable equal and assured access to federated data is also an important part of making data interoperable. The Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) is collaborating with the military Services and both departments to establish the Med-COI as a way to simplify and secure communications among DoD and VA electronic health record systems and provide DoD and VA clinicians access to health data.

The goals of the review session included defining what constitutes "success" on December 31, 2013; defining Med-COI Phases I, II, and III; and providing a status on each. Briefings provided a cross-program technical review of the basic design approach for all functions and capabilities – with a focus on successfully completing the accelerators by the end of the year – as well as describing how completion of the accelerators will contribute to data interoperability.

Leaders and subject matter experts from the IPO and DISA provided a series of integrated presentations addressing architecture, deployment, sustainment, configuration management, schedules, testing, issues, and risks.

The reviews were designed as a way to synchronize the efforts of the IPO community and identify areas requiring attention. Follow-on discussions now being conducted with topic leads will address questions and issues that could not be answered during the sessions.

At the end of the reviews, 30 action items were identified and assigned that will contribute to meeting the December 2013 goal to complete the Accelerators. Periodic updates on our progress will be provided on this page, so be sure to check back often.

iEHR Staff Office Meeting on September 17-18

On September 17 and 18, the recently established iEHR Staff Office in Health Informatics (HI) held its first face-to-face meeting in Seattle, Washington. The group focused on determining the path forward in the changing iEHR and VistA Evolution landscape.

The group reviewed in detail the initial draft of the VistA Evolution Plan, identified major stakeholders, and assigned specific personnel assignments and Points of Contact (POCs) for major components of the draft program plan.

The iEHR Staff Office is currently working with the Office of Information & Technology (OIT) to develop a planning document to describe how VistA

Evolution will take shape, define the deliverables for FY2014 Initial Operating Capability (IOC) and FY2017 Full Operating Capability (FOC), and implement a collaborative management model similar to that successfully used by the Health Informatics Initiative (HI²) for joint VHA and OIT programmatic oversight and direction.

Transition of VA Functional Capabilities Group (FCG) Co-Chair

Effective September 20, 2013, ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ officially assumed duties as VA's Co-Chair of the Functional Capabilities Group (FCG), iEHR initiative. The FCG operates as a sub-group of the Interagency Clinical Informatics Board (ICIB) which oversees the requirements development of the Capability Integrated Project Teams (C-IPT) and Information Exchange Integrated Project Teams (IE-IPT). In his role, ▮▮▮▮▮ will work side-by-side with the DoD FCG Co-Chair, ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ to achieve the goal envisioned by the President, Congress, and Secretary of VA (SECVA). ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮

Janus Joint Legacy Viewer (JLV) Deployment

The following is a field perspective of the deployment of Janus JLV at the San Antonio VA Healthcare System:

Janus JLV was deployed to the South Texas Veterans Health Care System's (STVHCS) Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center and North Central Federal Clinic (a joint VA/DoD facility) May 29 and 30, 2013. The target audience for this pilot

deployment was key clinicians at both facilities, specifically the care coordinators, case management, primary care nurses and medical care staff.

During training, users were enthusiastic about the current product and potential improvement to their workflow. In addition to the benefits of being able to view available radiology images via the MedWeb Viewer, users continue to report the benefits of the Janus JLV platform as it easier to use than existing platforms and it provides a high level of detail in one interface.

Pilot users continue to provide feedback on the Janus JLV platform and cite opportunities for additional development and improvements. There is some confusion at the site in terms of if the site has the authority to increase the number of users, especially in light of the connectivity issues as well as the National Team's stated desire to keep the users capped at those already trained. Demand for access has increased with the additional visibility of the Janus JLV platform and the circulation of JLV link by pilot users. Site staff look forward to increased users capacity becoming available.

Staff also reported that they are happy that the National Team agreed to resume the combined site calls. Staff felt that it was productive to be able to share and receive firsthand information with the developers and other sites. The staff hopes these useful and collaborative calls will continue in the future.

More information on iEHR

The ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ *is regularly updated and a great source of information related to iEHR, including the Clinical Informatics and Requirement Division (CIRD) Weekly Updates and IPO Bridge Newsletter. You can also subscribe to the iEHR Program Information Listserv to stay informed about iEHR and self-identify as a potential Subject Matter Expert (SME) for future capabilities.* ▮▮

Thank you for taking the time to read this iEHR update. ▮▮

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Acronym Guide

Acronym	Definition
C-IPT	Capability Integrated Project Team
CIRD	Clinical Informatics and Requirement Division
DISA	Defense Information Systems Agency
DoD	Department of Defense
VA	Department of Veterans Affairs
DHMSM	DoD Healthcare Management System Modernization
EHR	Electronic Health Record
FOC	Full Operating Capacity
FCG	Functional Capability Group
HI2	Health Informatics Initiative
ICIB	Interagency Clinical Informatics Board
iEHR	integrated Electronic Health Record
IE-IPT	Information Exchange – Integrated Project Team
IOC	Initial Operating Capacity
IPO	Interagency Program Office
JLV	Joint Legacy Viewer
Med-COI	Medical Community of Interest
OIT	Office of Information
SECVA	Secretary of Veteran Affairs
SME	Subject Matter Expert
STVHCS	South Texas Veterans Health Care System

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Veterans Health Administration