

THE IPO BRIDGE



July 2019

Message From Our Leadership

Welcome to the thirteenth edition of the Department of Defense (DoD)/Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Interagency Program Office's (IPO) quarterly bulletin, The IPO Bridge! Inside this issue, we welcome Mr. James P. Gfrerer who began his role as the VA's Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology and Chief Information Officer in January, as well as Mr. William J. Tinston who began his role as Program Executive Officer of the Program Executive Office, Defense Healthcare Management Systems' (PEO DHMS) in March. You will also read about our interagency activities and accomplishments to enhance health data interoperability across the DoD, VA, and other partners worldwide. We also highlight the Departments' efforts to implement a single, seamlessly integrated electronic health record (EHR) as well as its comprehensive, agile, and coordinated management authority, the Federal Electronic Health Record Modernization (FEHRM) Program Office. Thank you for your support as we continue to facilitate the Departments' modernization efforts for the DoD and VA's implementation of national health data standards for interoperability. If you have feedback or questions, please contact dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil.



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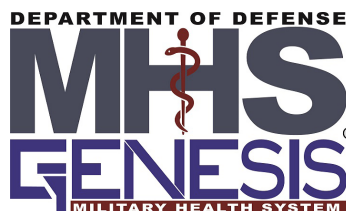
OEHRM Continues Plans for EHR IOC Rollout



The VA continues to expand its efforts associated with the adoption of a common framework and platform with DoD, which will ensure the accessibility of patient data from a single integrated instance within a commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) product. This instance will enable seamless care between the Departments without the electronic exchange and reconciliation of data between various disparate systems. This year, OEHRM continues its modernization efforts by holding workshops with clinicians, COTS representatives, and subject matter experts on lessons learned. The EHR modernization solution will allow the VA to continually modernize its health IT systems and protect patient information through advanced cybersecurity capabilities. The VA EHR modernization teams continue to work their EHR program implementations, while maximizing collaborative strategies, opportunities, and projects whenever possible.

MHS GENESIS Wave 4 Deployment Progress

The DoD Healthcare Management System Modernization (DHMSM) Program Management Office (PMO) continue deployment activities for Waves 1-6 for the DoD's modernized EHR, MHS GENESIS. The DHMSM Deployment Team recently demonstrated current MHS GENESIS capabilities during the System Validation Sessions at all the Wave 1 sites, including Mountain Home Air Force Base, Travis Air Force Base, Naval Air Station Lemoore, and Monterey Army Base. In addition, in April, the DHMSM PMO announced the Wave 4 kick-off activities held at Nellis Air Force Base, Fort Irwin, and Twentynine Palms. The event presented information to military treatment facility commanders and their executive teams about the MHS GENESIS deployment process and key roles and responsibilities. The DoD plans to fully deploy MHS GENESIS to 9.5 million beneficiaries and 205,000 medical personnel and staff by 2023. Additionally, PEO DHMS continues to work with the VA and United States Coast Guard to assist their transition to the same electronic health record as the DoD, ensuring interoperability and seamless care for beneficiaries.



EHRM Testimony

In June, Mr. Tinston, Mr. John Windom, Executive Director of the VA's Office of the Electronic Health Record Modernization, Dr. Thompson, and other DoD and VA senior leaders testified before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs' Subcommittee on Technology Modernization. Dr. Thompson's testimony emphasized the importance of health data interoperability, which is essential to improving the care delivered to Service members, Veterans, and their families. The hearing also included questions from subcommittee members on current efforts made by the DoD, VA, and IPO to support joint decision making and current implementation plans for the FEHRM. Click [here](#) to view the testimony.



PEO DHMS, OEHRM, and IPO Leadership testifies before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs' Subcommittee on Technology Modernization.

IPO Attends 2019 USPHS Symposium

In May, IPO's Lieutenant Commander Minh-Huong Doan and Commander Mellissa Walker facilitated a discussion at the 2019 U.S. Public Health Service Scientific and Training Symposium. The event focused on "Better Health Through Better Partnerships," and brought together more than 1,200 Commissioned Corps officers of the USPHS and health IT professionals. The event enabled discussions on advancements of health care and public health. LCDR Doan provided an overview of IPO and progress to enhance health data interoperability. Click [here](#) for more information.



LCDR Doan discusses the IPO and Departments' progress toward interoperability requirements.



IPO Attends IEEE Conference

In May, IPO staff attended the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers' (IEEE)/ Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society's (EMBS) International Conference on Biomedical & Health Informatics, jointly organized with the IEEE/EMBS international conference on wearable and implantable Body Sensor Networks. This year's theme is "Integrated Informatics for Precision and Preventative Medicine," and provided a forum to showcase novel sensors, systems, signal processing, analytics, and data management services. Click [here](#) for more information.



34th Annual Valor Awards

In April, IPO's Acquisition & IT Project Manager, Mr. Ken Blount, received the Meritorious Civilian & Unit Citation Award during the Loudoun County, VA, Chamber of Commerce's 34th Annual Valor Awards. This award recognizes public servants for selfless acts of heroism and commitment to protecting our communities. Mr. Blount was recognized for his efforts to save the life of a gunshot wound victim while attending a wedding in September 2018. On behalf of the IPO and PEO DHMS, thank you, Mr. Blount, for this heroic, life-saving act.



Mr. Ken Blount accepts Loudoun County VA's Meritorious Civilian & Unit Citation Award.



JULY

- 15 EHRM Coordination
- 25 DoD/VA Interagency IT Steering Committee
- 26 JALFHCC IM/IT Executive Session
- 30 Defense Healthcare Information Technology Symposium

AUGUST

- 14 EHRM Coordination
- 15-16 IPO Strategic Offsite
- 22 DoD/VA Interagency IT Steering Committee
- 23 JAL-FHCC IM/IT Executive Session

SEPTEMBER

- 10 JEC Meeting
- 11 EHRM Coordination
- 26 DoD/VA Interagency IT Steering Committee

HL7 Ballot Cycle Activities

In late March, the IPO kicked off the Health Level Seven International's (HL7®) May 2019 ballot cycle, continuing contributions and inputs on health data standards in various stages of maturity. During this ballot cycle, the IPO selected four ballots for their impact on interoperability between the DoD, VA, and their health partners. The selected ballots were reviewed by DoD and VA subject matter experts. Comments and votes were submitted prior to the HL7 International Conference & Working Group Meeting (WGM) in Montreal, Canada, in May. At the HL7 WGM the IPO subject matter experts made presentations on the IPO led Basic Provenance project and the Orthodontics Attachments Implementation Guide Project. The presentations were featured at 5 working group sessions which included over a hundred international participants. Moving forward, the IPO continues to make an acknowledged positive impact on health data interoperability to benefit military members, veterans and their families.



ONC's Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement

The IPO continues to work with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology's (ONC) implementation framework to improve data sharing between health information networks (HIN). Last year, the IPO provided subject matter expertise on ONC's Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement, an agreement that advances Congress' intent on ensuring that health information is available where and when it is needed to manage patient health and care. Released in January 2018 for public comment, draft 1 of the agreement summarized principles, terms, and conditions which support nationwide exchange of electronic health information across different HINs. The IPO also submitted comments, in conjunction with the Departments on draft 2 of the Common Agreement, released in April 2019, focusing on updating the purposes for which information can be exchanged and extending time lines for participating organizations to implement changes required by the Common Agreement. Click [here](#) for more information.



DoD/VA Industry Interoperability Roundtable

In May, the IPO conducted its 8th semi-annual DoD/VA Industry Interoperability Roundtable in McLean, Virginia, with the theme of "The Innovation Pathway to Achieve Seamless Care." The roundtable brought together attendees from the DoD, VA, ONC, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, academia, and the private sector. Mr. Gfrerer provided opening remarks and other DoD and VA senior leaders discussed current initiatives, such as progress on MHS GENESIS and OEHRM/Cerner activities; status of the IPO's health data sharing projects; as well as interoperability influences and lessons learned on delivering quality patient care. The event also featured panel discussions on healthcare innovation, led by participants from Google, EPIC, Cerner, HL7, Partners Health Care, the Argonaut Project, and others.



Mr. Gfrerer gives opening remarks at the DoD/VA Industry Interoperability Roundtable.

Meet Our Staff – CDR Mellissa Walker



As a Program Manager with the IPO, Commander Mellissa Walker, United States Public Health Service, leads the DoD/VA Timeline for DoD/VA EHR and Related Projects which highlights key interoperability milestones crucial to the deployment of EHR systems to DoD and VA facilities. In May 2019, the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association's Washington, D.C., chapter selected CDR Walker as the recipient of the 2019 Military IT Leadership Award, recognizing her outstanding contributions to the warfighter through the use of IT. In addition to her IPO duties, she exhibited decisive bravery during her deployments to North Carolina, Florida, and Texas to assist first responders during the devastating aftermaths of Hurricanes Florence, Irma, and Harvey. *Thank you for your service, CDR Walker!*



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