The health and safety of our Veterans is one of our highest national priorities. VA is committed to providing seamless care for Veterans, including access to a complete electronic health record and shared, transparent care pathways. In order to ensure seamless care for Veterans, VA will move toward a single common system by adopting the electronic health record (EHR) system that is being deployed by DOD, which at its core consists of Cerner Millennium.

VA EHR Modernization Approach

» VA is authorized to negotiate directly with Cerner to acquire a commercial solution to replace the existing VA EHR. This effort will ultimately result in all patient data residing in one common system and enable seamless care without the manual or electronic exchange and reconciliation of data between current systems.

» From the Veteran perspective, having a single common system will provide a single, accurate, lifetime health record. It will also result in improved patient care and safety.

VA Existing EHR

» A forward thinking group of VA clinicians began the groundbreaking work of developing an EHR in VA basements in the 1970’s. Known as the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA), this is the system that VA clinicians still use today.

» The EHR components of the VistA system and its associated graphical user interface, Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS), have contributed to outstanding patient safety and quality of care.

» The 130+ instances of VistAs that make up VA’s current EHR are in need of major modernization and would require substantial investment to meet VA’s needs for modern health information technology and cybersecurity.

» Software development is not a core competency of VA. VistA will not go away immediately, but pursuing a commercial solution will result in the best outcomes for Veterans and value for taxpayer dollars.
VA EHR Modernization Plan

» The Undersecretary of Health and Chief Information Officer will serve as the Executive Sponsors and will lead the EHR modernization (EHRM) effort. EHRM will have a dedicated Program Executive Office (PEO), which will be staffed with VA’s most knowledgeable technical and functional subject matter experts.

» Secretary Shulkin signed a Determination and Findings (D&F) document, which allows VA’s Technology Acquisition Center (TAC) to enter into contract negotiations with Cerner to acquire the EHR system being deployed by DOD, and related services for deployment and transition across the VA enterprise in a manner that meets VA needs, and which will enable seamless healthcare to Veterans and qualified beneficiaries.

» Under the contract, at a minimum, Cerner will provide the full scope of services, including integration, configuration, testing, deployment, hosting, organizational change management, training, and sustainment, and licenses necessary to deploy the EHR system in a manner that meets VA needs. The contract will also address all EHR functions supporting clinical care including revenue cycle, in-patient, ambulatory, as well as home care, ancillaries, and specialties to include dental. The contract will also address non-clinical core functional requirements, which may include inventory management/supply chain capabilities.

» VA has unique needs that may differ from the DOD requirements. As the VA adopts the EHR that DOD uses, we will also build upon it to meet VA unique requirements while implementing a single common system for managing patients.

» Given the size, scale and complexity of the VA, we know this will be an important investment. Our team is focused to ensure we provide seamless care for Veterans while obtaining the best value for taxpayer dollars.

» The culture of innovation across VA will continue to expand as we collaborate through our partnerships with DOD and Cerner to provide the best seamless care for Veterans.