



About the Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) Program: To advance the mission of providing seamless, quality health care for Veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is implementing the same Cerner Millennium electronic health record (EHR) as the Department of Defense (DoD). This new EHR system will improve the experience of Veterans as they transition from military careers, provide clinicians with a full picture of a patient’s medical history and drive better clinical outcomes.

DATA MIGRATION

The First Major Milestone

As the first major step toward a truly interoperable EHR, VA has migrated approximately 77 billion rows (50 terabytes) of data, representing the records of 23.5 million unique Veterans, to a shared data center with DoD. This data encompasses 21 domains of clinical information relevant for Veterans’ care, including vital signs, lab results, pharmacy prescriptions, inpatient and outpatient diagnoses, procedures and more. To achieve this milestone, VA aggregated and standardized data from 130 operational instances of VistA, VA’s legacy EHR system. Data was then copied to Cerner’s Kansas City data center where VA’s new EHR will be hosted.

Continuous Access to Veteran Health Information

Following successful migration of the aggregated Veterans health information, VA established a connection between VistA and the Cerner EHR, allowing the two systems to communicate throughout the multi-year EHR transition. Through this connection, a Veteran’s health information in the new EHR will remain accurate and up to date.

Additionally, to facilitate a smooth transition to the new EHR and mitigate potential clinical impacts, VA will:

- Continue to maintain VistA, including the Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS), until all VA facilities have fully integrated the new EHR

- Ensure VA staff can access a Veteran’s complete health history when the Cerner EHR becomes operational
- Maintain access to legacy DoD health records through the Joint Legacy Viewer (JLV)

Achieving True Interoperability

EHR interoperability has long been a goal for both VA and DoD. Currently, health record sharing systems between the departments have been limited to “read only” capabilities. When the Cerner EHR is fully implemented, providers in both agencies will be able to view, update and exchange patient health information in one common system. Additionally, service members and Veterans will have one lifetime health record, regardless of where they receive care.

VA has migrated health records for 23.5 million unique Veterans to the new Cerner EHR

