ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MODERNIZATION FACT SHEET

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to providing seamless care for Veterans, including access to a comprehensive electronic health record (EHR). The health and safety of Veterans is one of the Nation’s highest priorities. To ensure seamless care for Veterans, VA has signed a contract with Cerner to acquire the same EHR system that is being deployed by Department of Defense (DoD).

VA EHR Modernization Approach

- VA’s decision to acquire Cerner’s EHRM solution will ultimately result in all patient data residing in a single hosting site utilizing a common system for sharing of health information.
- This EHR solution will improve care delivery and coordination and provide clinicians with data and tools to enhance patient safety.
- From the Veteran’s perspective, a single common system will provide an accurate and comprehensive health record at the point of care, resulting in improved patient care and safety.

Existing VA EHR

- Throughout the years, VA clinicians and leaders have continued to pioneer medical advancements in support of the best care for our Veterans.
- Veterans Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) is the current system for VA clinicians. There are 130 instances of VistA that hold patient information and act as VA’s EHR.
- VistA will be running simultaneously throughout the deployment of the Cerner solution. To ensure a smooth transition, both legacy systems and the Cerner solution will concurrently support providers and Veterans until the legacy systems can be safely decommissioned.

VA EHR Modernization Plan

- VA’s Deputy Secretary will provide executive leadership of the EHRM effort. EHRM has a dedicated Program Executive Office (PEO), which is staffed with VA’s most knowledgeable technical and functional subject matter experts. The Executive Director of the EHRM PEO provides leadership and direction for operationalizing VA’s EHR modernization priorities.
  - Moving forward, VA needs to be able to quickly and effectively adopt state of the art solutions that allow providers to meet the evolving needs of Veterans.

VA STATS

- 9.3 Million enrolled Veterans who receive care each year
- Staffed by more than 350,000 employees
- More than 1,200 Medical Facilities including 170 Medical Centers and
- 1,060 Community Based Outpatient Clinics
Cerner will provide the full scope of services, including integration, configuration, testing, deployment, hosting, organizational change management, training, and licenses necessary to deploy the EHR system in a manner that meets VA needs.

This includes all EHR functions supporting clinical care, including revenue cycle, in-patient, ambulatory, as well as home care, ancillaries, and specialties to include dental.

Cerner will also address non-clinical core functional requirements, which may include inventory management/supply chain capabilities.

EHRM will support capabilities not yet acquired by DoD, such as revenue cycle reporting, business intelligence, and data analysis.

- Given the size, scale, and complexity of VA, and the requirements for seamless interoperability with DoD, this acquisition will be a flagship investment.
- VA will build upon DoD’s lessons learned to implement optimal solutions for Veterans and obtain the best value for taxpayer dollars.
- The EHRM program is not simply a technical solution or software replacement. VA is redesigning the way it delivers health care, with a future state that is patient-focused and efficient with an effective delivery system—one that offers Veterans and their families the best health care available.