Office of Electronic Health Record
MODERNIZATION

WHAT VETERANS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

HOW VA'S HEALTH RECORD SYSTEM IS CHANGING

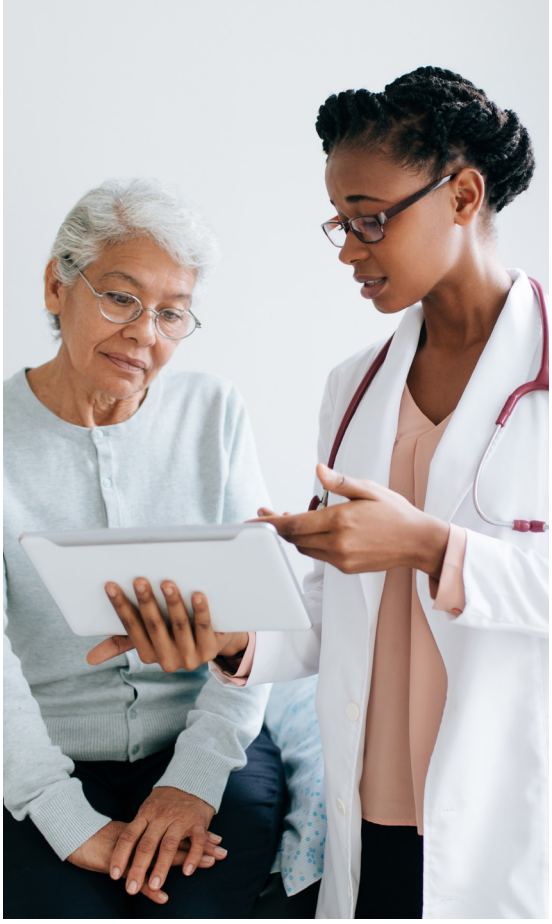
VA IS TRANSITIONING TO A NEW ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD

In May 2018, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) began a 10-year effort to migrate Veteran health data into a modern electronic health record (EHR) that will give VA providers secure access to a patient's complete medical history from the time they entered military service through their transition to Veteran status and beyond.

Our nation's Veterans deserve high-quality health care, including access to a comprehensive EHR that eliminates the need to manage cumbersome printed health records, endure repeat tests or relay basic information, such as drug allergies, to different providers. The new EHR will help improve delivery of care and simplify the patient experience. VA's current EHR systems have been in use for almost 40 years and supported care for generations of Veterans, but furthering VA's mission to transform how it provides health care requires a more connected, interoperable system.

ADVANTAGES OF THE NEW EHR

- **A common system** to bring together service records from the Department of Defense (DOD) and VA.
- **Faster, smarter care decisions** powered by data analytics that take a broad view of a Veteran's medical history and service record.
- Improved and **consistent scheduling experience** at VA medical facilities and community care partners nationwide.
- Advanced cybersecurity measures to ensure **data privacy.**
- Ability to leverage industry-leading technology **and add new functionality** so providers can best serve the unique needs of Veterans.



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BRINGING YOUR COMPLETE HEALTH RECORD TOGETHER

Patient information from different doctors, pharmacies and labs will be stored in a common EHR. The format of the health data will be quickly accessible and easy to use. Coordination between DOD and VA allows Veterans' complete health records to follow them anywhere, regardless of where they served or where they seek VA care.

A CONNECTED FUTURE

- A consolidated health record will allow providers to see the **full picture of a Veteran's medical history** to make better decisions for their patients and drive better health outcomes.
- Modern data analytics tools in the EHR will **improve preventive care by identifying health trends** affecting Veterans who served in a particular time and place.

WHEN WILL MY PROVIDER SWITCH TO THE NEW SYSTEM?

VA will begin deploying its new EHR in March 2020 at select VA medical facilities in the Pacific Northwest and will install the system nationwide over the next several years. Most Veterans will not see immediate changes to how they view their medical records or receive health care. VA will continue to maintain and support its current EHR systems throughout the transition period to ensure there is no interruption in the accessibility and delivery of care. Veterans can expect to learn more as their local facilities prepare to migrate to the new EHR.

VA IS COMMITTED TO YOUR HEALTH

VA's efforts to modernize its EHR systems are essential to its mission of providing the highest level of care to Veterans today and into the future.

For more information, visit **www.ehrm.va.gov**.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Hanah Abercrombie