



Partnered Project: EMR Interoperability National Evaluation

Project Lead: Steven D. Pizer, PhD

Operations Partner: Office of Informatics and Information Governance (OIIG)

Many Veterans receiving VHA care also receive care outside the VHA. Dual use of health care systems may lead to duplicative diagnostic testing, poorly coordinated treatments, or other inefficiencies and bad outcomes. Greater health information exchange (HIE) among VHA and non-VHA providers has potential to improve coordination, quality, value, and costs of care, as well as heighten satisfaction among Veterans and their clinicians. The EMR modernization initiative, guided by OIIG, is designed to bridge the information gap between VHA and non-VHA care. The goals of EMR modernization include creation of a real-time, unified, health record for every Veteran that improves quality, safety, efficiency, equity, and satisfaction. Alongside these goals, in partnership with PEPReC, OIIG seeks to define, refine, and implement Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and to use them to evaluate use, performance, and impact of new software features. With the recently announced plan to acquire electronic medical record systems from Cerner, work on this partnered project will maintain its focus on interoperability while adapting to anticipated major shifts in technology.

Tasks completed for OIIG include:

Continued design work for key performance metrics

Completed analysis of impact of interoperability on patient satisfaction (JLV – Joint Legacy Viewer)

Obtained access to tracking data for use of exchange data (VLER- Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record)

Specified analysis and constructed pilot data to evaluate impact of interoperability on duplicate imaging

Performed exploratory analysis of follow-up screening after positive fecal occult blood testing (FOBT)

Provided economic analysis consultation to clinical ontology development effort

Completed environmental scans of utility databases and economic decision support systems

Specified preliminary analyses in support of Interagency Program Office metrics development committees

Created data requests for DOD and TRICARE files