

iEHR INFORMATION PAPER

BACKGROUND

The Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense are tasked to develop and implement an iEHR based on a joint common platform, fully accessible by both departments. One of the pivotal points in developing and implementing the full spectrum of iEHR is the GUI, which provides the doctor or other medical practitioner a summary sheet of both VA and DoD medical data, eliminating the time- and labor-intensive process of switching back and forth between the two, along with the increased potential for mistakes. Unifying the end user experience facilitates the pursuit of common process flows as the iEHR initiative replaces various legacy systems.

Briefings to Congressional Authorization and Appropriations committees for both VA and DoD have been well-received as Congressional staff have displayed cautious optimism.

iEHR DESCRIPTION

In March 2011, the PJITC Hui was asked by VA leadership to participate in the VA/DoD Joint Electronic Health Record Presentation Layer Pilot GUI Design utilizing the existing framework of Janus. This new GUI will focus on Clinician-Centric data as well as the Patient-Centric data and will utilize the “portal” and “widget” GUI design concepts. The two portals are designed to be customizable by the individual user for their own unique preferences.

Clinician Portal

The clinician-centric portal is the first of its kind within the VA and DoD electronic health record system. Both legacy systems do not show a clinical centric view of their workload and tasks. Nor do they show the clinician patient cohort data within a GUI framework. This provides a new and fresh look into the legacy electronic health record.

- Provides primary source for clinicians to manage their overall clinical workload
- Oriented towards clinicians rather than specific patient
- Provides launch point into patient summary page (if patient is selected)
- Provides launch point into other systems/UIs (until those capabilities integrated into Joint GUI)

Patient Portal

The patient-centric portal will display all the needed clinical information for a comprehensive patient chart.

- Provides consistent at-a-glance view of a patient – independent of DoD/VA affiliation of patient and provider
- Pulls data from multiple sources rather than forcing clinician to find sources
- Provides launch point into primary data source/system/UI (until those capabilities integrated into Joint GUI)

Each portal will contain its own “widget” library. A widget is a stand-alone application/data collection specific to a clinical domain or subject. Each widget will contain data from both VA and DoD data and displayed commingled and chronologically ordered. All VA (VistA) data is marked with a blue-filled circle; TAMC (CHCS) data is marked with an orange-filled circle.



iEHR has all built-in features for sorting and selecting tests and information. Lab reports are available for printing. Tables and graphs can be generated for VistA lab tests (see screen shot below).

Janus requires little training and has a short learning curve. Most authenticated end-users can go to work immediately on Janus after a 30- to 45-minute training process.

Authenticated users who know how to navigate in a web browser can navigate the common data view system without difficulty, unlike most client-based systems that require hours of training and pose a potential for confusion and frustration among new users.

iEHR displays enterprise VA medical data where ever the patient has been seen and will soon be able to display enterprise DoD medical data from each medical treatment facility and in theater.

Benefits

The implementation of the Janus common data view interface at TAMC and VAPIHCS has enabled greater provider access to medical records. The outcome is expected to yield an overall improvement in the quality and efficiency of care at both facilities through the following:

- Improved general patient safety by facilitating timely clinician access to medical information
- Improved patient satisfaction via enhanced efficiency of the clinic visit
- Improved patient safety and efficiency through avoidance of duplicate diagnostics
- Benefits to patient safety through improved medication reconciliation
- Reduced potential adverse drug events (ADEs) at both facilities by improving access to drug lists and allergies
- Supports safe transition of care between agencies on admission discharge and between episodes of care
- Janus interface offers potential cost savings by allowing the consolidation of shared processes between TAMC and VAPIHCS, which result in larger economies of scale.