
Patient Search Tool: CPRS Extension

Release 1.0

Document Storage Systems, Inc. (DSS Inc.)

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Abstract

This paper describes a software extension to the Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS) that solves a major problem for clinicians by allowing them to identify and isolate text data within a patient's record in real time.

This tool enables clinicians and researchers who use the VistA EHR to quickly search a patient's entire electronic record for free text data that might otherwise be scattered throughout the chart.

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1 Introduction

The Patient Search Tool and Launcher were developed by Document Storage Systems, Inc. (DSS, Inc.) as part of the Veterans Affairs Innovation Initiative (VAi2) in collaboration with the North Florida / South Georgia VAMC in Gainesville, FL.

Innovation Initiatives are designed to spur innovation within VA by providing opportunities to partner with the best of the private sector and solve the Department's most pressing challenges. The DSS Patient Search Tool is a VistA EHR extension to the Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS) that solves a major problem for clinicians by allowing them to identify and isolate text data within a patient's record in real time. Discrete and free text data buried deep in the patient's notes, orders, problems, and medications take valuable clinical time and effort, but the DSS Patient Search Tool can retrieve this information in moments,

which is a powerful tool for enhancing patient-centered care. Without the DSS Patient Search Tool, the information stored in a patient record as free text can be difficult to find or missed entirely as patients are seen over a period of time. The launcher will enable CPRS to seamlessly run the Patient Search Tool within a patient record.

2 Current CPRS

CPRS provides search functionality within the Medical Notes and Laboratory sections of CPRS for text and data. Many of the other sections in CPRS contain a large amount of data, and do not have search functionality available for the VA health care providers. This causes extensive research and manual retrieval of data by health care providers, which is inefficient and time-consuming.

3 Additions of the Search Tool

The new Search options and capabilities provided by CPRS Search Tool give clinicians the ability to obtain health care information that was previously unavailable or missed. CPRS Search Tool also helps to improve workflow, efficiency and health care provider's access to patient history.

4 Conclusions

The DSS Patient Search tool is expected to improve direct patient care, safety, and quality while reducing unnecessary and costly duplicate consults, tests, or procedures. Providers will have new search functionality that has been lacking in VistA even with elaborate reporting tools.

5 About

5.1 Document Storage Systems, Inc. (DSS, Inc.)

DSS, Inc. develops and supplies integrated enhancements to the Veterans Affairs VistA system and specializes in healthcare IT solutions that improve quality and productivity. The organization also designs applications that are compatible with the Indian Health Services RPMS, the Department of Defense's healthcare systems and vxVistA.

To foster the adoption of open source in healthcare organizations, DSS, Inc. is a founder and supporter of a community-driven, collaboration environment Web site, www.vxVistA.org that acts as a forum for discussion and best practices among Open Source vxVistA and VistA users.