

# AAP\_Technical Guide

Department of Veterans Affairs

Mobile Applications (Apps) Phase Two (MAP2)

Ask A Pharmacist

Technical Guide

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Version 1.0

## 1. Introduction

Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Patient Care Services (PCS), Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) has requested an Ask A Pharmacist (AAP) mobile application that will expand patient care services by providing trusted medication resources and answers to frequently asked medication questions developed by Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pharmacists to VA patients and their caregivers. AAP will provide a link to Secure Messaging (SM) resources on My HealtheVet (MHV) so that patients and/or caregivers can learn how to submit specific questions directly related to their local VHA pharmacy. AAP will also link to medication functionality within MHV. AAP will consist of a landing page containing links to various internal and external medication resources and information (e.g., trusted sources of information, other VA Medical Centers [VAMC]), as well as Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

Additionally, it is envisioned that once Veterans and/or caregivers become "In-Person Authenticated" (IPA), they can submit specific questions for a prompt, personal response through SM. Providing an additional route of communication will ultimately lead to streamlining the pharmacy workflow and increase patient satisfaction.

AAP will allow users access to vetted information in an easy-to-use format without the users having to worry about locating valid information on their own via the Internet and/or potentially untrusted sources. AAP will also allow front line triage staff to handle the majority of AAP submitted questions via SM.

### 1.1. Purpose

The purpose of this AAP Technical Guide is to provide system implementers and developers with a technical overview of the AAP application. The guide will provide detail on the installation, removal, access control mechanisms, and system administration details for the AAP application.

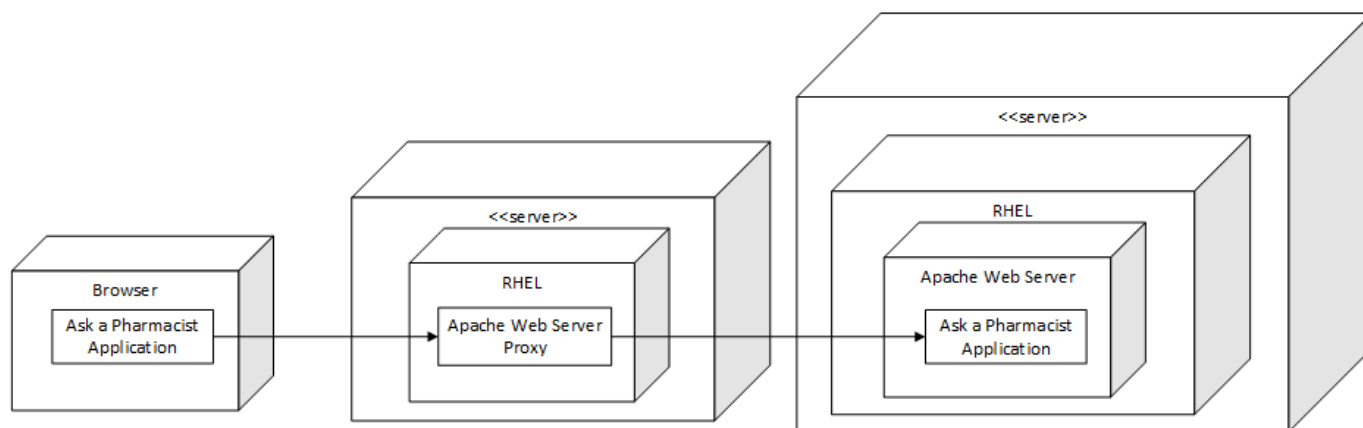
### 1.2. Related Material

--- Note: Due to policy constraints, active links cannot be included in this document. To access the links, copy the URL and paste it into your browser.

- Ask A Pharmacist System Design Document (AAP SDD): [https://\[REDACTED\]](https://[REDACTED])

## 2. Installation Prerequisites

The AAP application requires an Apache Web Server and common VAMF Shared Services.



**Figure 1: AAP Deployment Diagram**

Note that hardware and software configurations are dependent upon the load and suspected usage of the application and may need to be upgraded to match the environment in which they will run.

## 2.1. Software

Refer to the AAP System Design Document (SDD) for information on Technologies, Libraries, and Tools Used in the App. The AAP SDD can be viewed at: <https://www.va.gov/vaapp/sdd/>

## 2.2. Hardware

Hardware specifications are specific to loads within the VA Mobile Framework (VAMF). Sizing can be based off of systems being deployed and shared in the dev-int environment.

# 3. Installation Instructions

## 3.1. Installing Git

See [Installing Git](#).

## 3.2. Installing Node

See [Installing Node](#).

## 3.3. Building the HTML5 Application

See [AAP WebProject](#).

## 3.4. LaunchPad SQL

```
insert into hadb.launchpad_item (NAME, ITEM_MODE, TYPE, ITEM_POSITION, DESCRIPTION, URL, IMAGE_URL)
values
('Ask a Pharmacist',
'VETERAN',
'APP',
100,
'Veteran access to resources and secure messaging about health and medications',
'/aap/',
'./aap/img/app_chicklet.png');
commit;
```

## 4. Deployment to Apache Web Server

After building the HTML5 Web Application, extract the contents of the .WAR file under the \_build directory or from Jenkins onto the Apache Web Server root under the folder aap (ignoring the WEB-INF folder only needed for deployment to a J2EE server).

## 5. Rollback Procedure

This application follows the standard operating procedures for applications installed in the MAE/VAMF, currently operated by the PAMS support team. Rollback of services (since these are hosted on WebLogic) are typically an 'undeploy' of the existing application version within the WebLogic Administrator Console followed by re-deploy of the previous released version. The HTML5 web application is similar, where all contents of the web applications root directory on the Apache Web Server www directory are replaced with files from the previously released version.

## 6. Un-install

Follow any required data retention policies as suggested by VA. To uninstall the AAP Web Application (HTML5), simply remove the folder containing the application from the Apache Web Server www directory. To remove the AAP Service and Medication Image Library Service, simply undeploy the WAR file from the WebLogic container. Lastly, remove any reverse proxy routes from the Apache Proxy Server that point to the AAP application, AAP Service, and Medication Image Library Service.

## 7. Pre-release Testing

The Ask A Pharmacist Master Test Plan (AAP MTP) contains details related to AAP test procedures. The AAP MTP can be viewed at: <https://www.va.gov/va1/02aapmtp.htm>

## 8. User and Group Account

Veterans can access this application without login; no further account or group procedures are needed. System (hosting systems and associate eCRUD/Mongo system) account management is performed in accordance with existing MAE/VAMF procedures.

## 9. Release Guidance

This section is under construction as the application matures through the sprints. It will be filled in as the functionality becomes available.

## 10. System Administration

This section is under construction as the application matures through the sprints. It will be filled in as the functionality becomes available.

## 11. System Back-up

This application and supporting services is hosted in VA's MAE/VAMF Dedicated Core environment; ongoing system backups are provided as part of the Terremark hosting facility agreement.

## 12. Application Maintenance Procedures

Application maintenance is governed by the MAE Change Control Procedures, which include the processes used for both non-production and production environments. Refer to the following for detailed information: [https://\[REDACTED\]](https://[REDACTED])