VHA National Clinical Reminders Committee

Update Regarding Reminder Content Distribution

October 16, 2015

The process for providing updates to national clinical reminders and national clinical reminder dialogs has changed.  In the past, these national reminders and dialogs were distributed in software patches.  These patches were content only – meaning that they did not contain any Mumps routines or new software and only contained items that could be shared using the reminder exchange utility.

However, due to the difficulties with the patch distribution process including finding test sites, getting patches tested and approved in a reasonable time period and the requirement for OI&T support for patch installation, the process is being changed to use the clinical reminder exchange utility.  Reminder and dialog updates and new national reminders and dialogs will initially be offered and distributed by posting them on the national Clinical Reminder web page for upload into the Clinical Reminder Exchange utility for installation.  Announcements of the availability of new content will be distributed to multiple mail groups.

The reminders and dialogs will still go through testing at multiple test sites and the documentation including a User Guide will continue to be provided.  When the next available PXRM patch is released with updates to the reminder software, any content updates that have been previously distributed via the new process will be included in the patch so that all sites will have the most up to date content automatically installed at some point.   But the initial distribution will be via the Reminder Exchange Utility.

The advantages of this change include:

1. Sites can volunteer to test these updates without an MOU and without the need for OI&T approval.
2. The turnaround time for updates and for new content will be much shorter.
3. Any user with clinical reminder manager access can install these updates.
4. Sites can install the updates and new content at a time that is convenient for the site CACs and not have to rely on a time chosen by OI&T.
5. CACs will have more control during the installation to avoid overwriting existing items and to link local order dialogs and menus during the installation process.

The disadvantages to this change are:

1. There is no mandate for installation and no way to track the installation at each site so sites or VISNs may want to keep track of which updates/new content have been installed and implemented.
2. The CACs will need to load the updates/new content using the URL provided instead of having OI&T do this as a patch installation.