OI News You Can Use

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VA and DoD care givers can now view patient data from the other System's health records.

More Patient Data Now Available To VA and DoD Clinicians

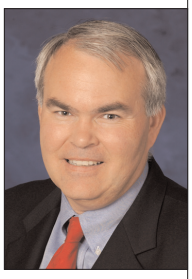
As of October 1, over 250 DoD hospitals and clinics are making important health data available to VA care providers through Bidirectional Health Information Exchange (BHIE). In addition, DoD clinicians at those facilities can see shared patient data from any VA site of care. (All VA facilities already have BHIE installed.) Having more data not only helps the physician, it benefits the patient. Patients avoid duplicate tests and that, of course, means cost savings for Medical Centers. Further, safety is improved by the reduced likelihood of duplicate or inappropriate medication orders. Dr. Michael Davies, Chief of Staff for Black Hills Health Care System, says "BHIE has been able to eliminate much of the frustration of doing an office visit for patients with DoD health information. Patients expect that government agencies work together for their benefit. BHIE provides the indispensable means to actually do it!"

> ***BHIE is an awesome tool and the usage report speaks volume on its likeability between both facilities.***
>
> Rikkita Y. Hughes, IT Application Software Specialist, El Paso Veterans Affairs Healthcare System

BHIE facilitates two-way, real-time exchange of information including laboratory results, radiology exam results, medication profiles, allergies, and problem list entries on more than 2.3 million patients, with more patients being added often. Furthermore, VA clinicians can view the data from within CPRS – no additional log-on is necessary.

BHIE's value can be measured not only by its selection as one of the American Council for Technology's "Top 5" Excellence.Gov Award Winners for 2006 but by usage statistics. In the month of August 2007 BHIE had 123,438 queries. Queries were from 826 unique sites and 19,420 unique users. (*Continued on back)*

Craig's Corner



Hello, and welcome to the first VHA Office of Information's (OI) newsletter.

Our office is pleased to serve the clinicians and allied health specialists who provide "The Best Care Anywhere" to the nation's veterans. We support and execute VHA's vision and mission by defining the requirements and direction of VA's award-winning electronic health-care system, Vista. We ensure VistA users have the IT capabilities, services, and data they need to deliver veterans the best quality medical care.

To achieve this goal, we are organized with focus on five areas:

★ **Enterprise Systems Management (ESM)**, works collaboratively with other OI components and VHA Program Offices to develop requirements for, implement and monitor the comprehensive portfolios of IT systems used by VHA.

★ **The VA/DoD Health IT Sharing (HITS) Program** Office facilitates and supports the development of mutually beneficial health information technology sharing between VHA and the Military Health System (MHS).

★ The Office of **Health Data Informatics** and its program offices focus on advancing and improving understanding of health information and electronic health records within VHA and beyond.

★ The **Chief Health Informatics Office (CHIO)** represents VA on regional, national, and international health informatics initiatives and manages high interest clinical programs – My HealtheVet & Bar Code Expansion – setting the gold-standard in consumer and clinical e-health innovations.

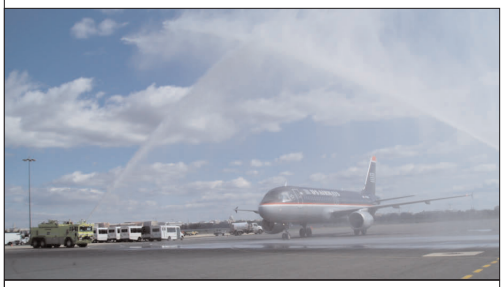
★ **Business Operations** takes care of the business and operational needs that support the other OI offices, enabling them to provide the highest quality services to veterans.

I hope you find this newsletter useful and informative. I welcome your comments, which can be emailed to shannon.collins@va.gov.

Best regards,
Craig Luigart,
Chief Officer, VHA Office of Information

VA Volunteers Honor World War II Heroes

At this year's VistA education conference, a speaker named Earl Morse brought the house down at the early hour of 8:00 a.m.! A former VA Physician's Assistant in Springfield, Ohio, he was saddened to hear that many of his older patients didn't have the money or other resources to visit "their" World War II Memorial – *so he did something about it*. He founded Honor Flight (www.honorflight.org) to fly these heroes to Washington for a day of touring the monuments, and especially the World War II Memorial. VA conference attendees were so moved they raised enough money for a "VeHU Honor Flight!"



A plane carrying WWII veterans taxies through a water arch salute from the airport fire department

Quite a few OI employees in the Washington, DC area have had the great privilege of meeting flights and greeting the veterans with clapping, whistling, foot stomping, and – occasionally – kissing and hugging. Some have accompanied veterans to the Memorial or met them there. There are so many ways to say thanks including helping the mobility impaired, distributing bottled water, and just listening to reminisces. Honor Flights will resume in April 2008. Watch for information on ways you can participate.

VA conference attendees were so moved they raised enough money for a "VeHU Honor Flight!"

BHIE *Continues from page 1*

BHIE delivers Patient Identification Correlation and real time bidirectional transmittal and display of:

- ★ Drug & Food Allergy Information
- ★ Radiology Text Reports
- ★ Expanded ADT
- ★ Consults
- ★ Inpatient Discharge Summaries & Notes
- ★ Laboratory
- ★ Orders
- ★ Chemistry & Hematology
- ★ Cytology
- ★ Microbiology
- ★ Surgical Pathology
- ★ Outpatient Encounters
- ★ Standard Ambulatory Data Record (SADR) Summaries of Outpatient Episodes
- ★ Pharmacy
- ★ Outpatient Pharmacy Data
- ★ Pharmacy Data Transaction Service (PDTS) – Non-Government Rx
- ★ Progress Notes
- ★ Pre & Post Deployment Health Assessments (PPDHA)
- ★ Post Deployment Health Reassessments (PDHRA)

Learn more about BHIE and find training materials by going to
VA **Intranet** Sites: http://vaww1.va.gov/fhie/ and http://vaww.vistau.med.va.gov/vistau/bhie/.
VA **Internet** Site: http://www.va.gov/vadodhealthitsharing/

Around the Office

News You Should Know

Got an IT requirement?

The Enterprise Systems Management (ESM) directorate has completed a review of the revised New Service Request (NSR) process final draft. This redefined process supports the evaluation of IT requests from staff in VHA field and program offices. Each request will be evaluated against the administration's strategic goals and the value it brings to VHA. The new process is designed for easier completion. ESM collaborates with the Office of Information & Technology's Veterans Health IT Office (VHIT) to identify high-level requirements, project sizing, and costing estimates. In the next few weeks, the ESM Office plans to formalize the remaining process flows and apply detail to each of the process steps. As these processes are formalized, updates will be posted on the ESM intranet site at http://vaww.va.gov/esm.

Protecting Social Security Numbers

OI staff is working to revamp how access to national datasets containing real Social Security Numbers is managed. For national or Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN)-level access, staff members will submit their paperwork to OI staff. An information letter and directive supporting this policy change will be distributed in the near future. This change is targeted for completion in November 2007.

CPRS Enhancement

From the **508 Compliance** office comes news of ongoing efforts that could significantly reduce current accessibility barriers in our Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS). CPRS V27, scheduled for release in December 2007, provides disabled users access to Consults, Clinical Reminders, Encounters, and Orders. Generalized enhancements have also been made to allow screen reader access to various controls throughout CPRS. For more information about this effort or 508 Compliance issues in general, please contact ellen.crowe@va.gov.

Watch for a "Hey VA" announcement about Health Information and Technology Week (HIT November 4 through 10, 2007). The theme for this year's celebration is: Accuracy You Can Count On, Information You Can Trust!

OI wishes our nation's veterans a Happy Veterans Day.