The mission of the Department of Defense (DoD)/Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Interagency Program Office is to lead and coordinate the adoption of and contribution to national health data standards to ensure interoperability among DoD, VA, and private sector healthcare worldwide.

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The Department of Defense (DoD)/Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Interagency Program Office (IPO) defines interoperability as the ability of two or more systems or components to exchange and use information. This program jointly oversees and monitors the efforts of the DoD and VA to implement national health data standards for interoperability and acts as the single point of accountability for identifying, monitoring, and approving the clinical and technical data standards and profiles. DoD/VA IPO ensures seamless integration of health data between the two departments and private healthcare providers. It closely collaborates with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), standards development organizations (SDO), and other public and private partners to support national interoperability efforts.

**VALUE OF INTEROPERABILITY**

**FEATURES**
- Creates seamless integration of DoD, VA, and private sector healthcare data to achieve improved joint visibility of health status for service members and veterans.
- Provides technical direction that enables the DoD and VA to successfully execute health information exchanges that support the flow of actionable data.
- Serves as a focal point for collaboration efforts relating to interoperability between DoD and VA, including serving as executive secretariat for the DoD/VA Interagency IT Steering Committee.

**BENEFITS**
- Encourages and enables collaboration across the DoD and VA by serving as a central resource for modernization and interoperability.
- Oversees and monitors the effectiveness of DoD and VA progress in enhancing health data interoperability.
- Serves as a conduit for DoD and VA engagement with ONC, federal partners, SDOs, and industry to facilitate secure knowledge sharing and mature data, standards, and interoperability.
- Assesses, updates, and maintains a technical framework that is clinically driven to align identified standards with approved and emerging use cases.
- Monitors best practices and provides technical guidance to facilitate interoperability and knowledge sharing, improving DoD and VA awareness of emerging technologies and innovations.