



Welcome!

Welcome to the second edition of the Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Affairs (DoD/VA) Interagency Program Office (IPO) bulletin, *The IPO Bridge*. Throughout FY16, we enjoyed working with you to enhance interoperability and ensure service members, veterans, and their families receive the best healthcare possible. Inside this edition, you will learn about IPO's recent accomplishments, key engagements, and future priorities to advance interoperability between the Departments and private sector partners. As we progress into the next fiscal year, we look forward to collaborating with you, expanding our network of partners in health IT, and achieving our global interoperability and modernization goals. To submit feedback or questions, please contact dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil.

Respectfully,



Lauren C. Thompson, Ph.D.,
Director, DoD/VA IPO



Steven G. Schliesman,
Deputy Director, DoD/VA IPO

Defense Health Information Technology Symposium

In early August 2016, IPO attended the Defense Health Information Technology Symposium. With the theme, "Health IT – Supporting the MHS Transformation," the symposium brought together more than 1,500 representatives from across the Military Health System, Defense Health Agency (DHA), and military service health IT communities to discuss strategic changes, the concept of shared services and DHA initiatives, and communicate progress on the launch of MHS GENESIS. IPO Director, Dr. Lauren Thompson, joined Ms. Aimee Scanlon, the Defense Medical Information Exchange program's Acting Program Manager, and Dr. Brian Jones, DHA's Branch Chief for User Integration, to provide an overview of IPO, discuss DoD's interoperability accomplishments, and present a live demonstration of the Joint Legacy Viewer. Click [here](#) for more information.



IPO's Metrics & Analytics Division

Metrics Summit V

IPO's Metrics & Analytics Division continues to enhance efforts to measure the impact of interoperability on DoD and VA patients and providers. Throughout the last quarter, the Metrics & Analytics Division focused on collaborating with the Health Executive Committee's Health Data Sharing Business Lines Workgroups to assess the impact of interoperability on Separating Service Members and the Integrated Disability Evaluation System. These areas delve into the impact health data interoperability has on our beneficiaries when a service member is no longer active, needs to file a disability claim, or has an ailment or injury.



In August 2016, the Metrics & Analytics Division hosted "Metrics Summit V," which highlighted industry priorities that focused on Outcome-Oriented Metrics. At the summit, several guest speakers from the private sector delivered presentations on best practices for the development and management of metrics. For more information, please contact dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil.

IPO Welcomes New Deputy Director

Please join us in welcoming IPO's new Deputy Director, Mr. Steven G. Schliesman. Joining IPO in August 2016, Mr. Schliesman collaborates with the IPO Director to provide leadership, oversight, and management to implement national health data standards in the development and deployment of interoperable electronic health records and systems. As an Army Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.), Mr. Schliesman brings years of experience serving both the DoD and VA. Prior to joining the IPO, Mr. Schliesman served in various leadership positions, including the Assistant Deputy Chief Information Officer for Project Management/Product Development at the VA's Office of Information and Technology, the Director of the Major Transformation Initiatives, and the Division Chief of Program Management Network Service Center's Technical Management Division. Welcome Mr. Schliesman! We are excited to have you on board and look forward to your future contributions!

Rock the Vote!

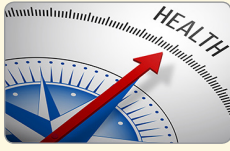
In FY16, IPO became a Benefactor Member of Health Level Seven International (HL7), a not-for-profit Standards Development Organization that provides standards for global health data interoperability. Moving forward, IPO representatives will participate in HL7's balloting process, which incorporates four types of ballots: Comment, Informative, Draft Standard for Trial Use, and Normative. During this process, HL7 members review each ballot item and choose to provide an affirmative or negative vote, abstain from voting altogether, and/or give constructive comments on content or language. This process helps ensure that proposed standards support industry-identified interoperability requirements from the public and private sector. The membership enables IPO to have an active role in the standards development process, and remain at the forefront of emerging standards and health data interoperability. Click [here](#) for more information.



IPO's Standards & Technology Division

Addressing Tomorrow's Challenges Today

Recently, the Standards & Technology Division, with support from IPO's leadership, completed four Joint Exploratory

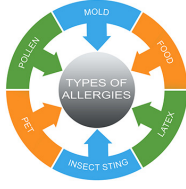


Team initiatives along with technical reports detailing their findings. Exploring issues, such as HL7 Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources, Consolidated Clinical Document Architecture, Mobile Security and Transport and Interoperability Architecture Gap Analysis, the IPO's Standards & Technology Division identified potential emerging interoperability challenges facing the Departments, explored potential solutions for these problems, and provided suggestions based on their findings.

For more information, please contact dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil.

IPO Selected for 2016 AMIA Symposium

In November 2016, IPO representatives will present their findings on the most common allergen terms in DoD and VA's electronic health records at the 2016 American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) Annual Symposium. The poster titled, "Developing a Baseline Set of Allergen Terms for the Consolidated-Clinical Document Architecture Using RxNorm 'Ingredient' Level Abstraction," details IPO's findings that relatively few allergen terms are in DoD and VA electronic health records. The study concluded that creating a limited set of common allergen terms simplifies the achievement of semantic interoperability for drug-allergen clinical decision support. Click [here](#) for more information on this year's annual symposium.



Calendar of Events



OCTOBER

- 4 ATARC Federal Mobile Computing Summit
- 12 AFCEA Health IT Day
- 13 DoD/VA Industry Interoperability Roundtable
- 16-20 Gartner Group IT Expo/Symposium
- 19 HIEA JSC Quarterly Meeting

NOVEMBER

- 12 AMIA Symposium
- 29 IPO Executive Committee Brief

DECEMBER

- 13 ATARC Federal Big Data Summit

IPO's Innovation & Engagement Division

Interoperability and the Future of mHealth

A key objective of IPO's Innovation & Engagement Division is to coordinate and collaborate with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), industry, and Standards Development Organizations to monitor and research emerging standards, industry



best practices, and innovation trends in health data interoperability. The Division researches mobile health (mHealth) and the impact of interoperability on the delivery of patients' health information to medical providers through handheld devices, such as smartphones, tablets, sensors, and wearable technology.

In October 2016, the Division will participate in the Advanced Technology Academic Research Center's (ATARC) "Federal Mobile Computing Summit," a symposium focused on the Federal Government's use of mobile devices. Click [here](#) for more information.

IPO's Interagency Coordination Division

Health Data Interoperability Management Plan

IPO's Interagency Coordination Division provides configuration management, guidance, and oversight as DoD and VA enhance their interoperability and modernization efforts. To support and track implementation activities, the Division developed the Health Data Interoperability Management Plan (HDIMP). The HDIMP outlines the strategy, guidance, roles, responsibilities, activities, and processes of IPO necessary to improve health data exchange, as well as terminology standardization for the Departments' and public and private partners' electronic health records. Version 3.0 of the HDIMP describes IPO's priorities and outlines each Divisions' roles and responsibilities in fulfilling IPO's mission. This version is currently under review with a projected release date of September 30, 2016. For more information, please contact dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil.

The Doctors Are In!

Please meet our Chief Medical Information Officers (CMIOs), Dr. Steven Kator, M.D., Internal Medicine and Dr. Norman E. Stone III, M.D., Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. Kator is a physician with 14 years of service in the VA and 10 years of experience in the DoD, eight of which were served on active duty. Dr. Stone is a surgeon with 13 years of service in the U.S. Air Force.



As IPO's CMIOs, our doctors provide clinical expertise in support of IPO's mission to lead and coordinate

the Departments' adoption of and contribution to national health data standards. Dr. Kator and Dr. Stone work with the DoD, VA, and public and private partners to ensure our modernization efforts and health data interoperability enhancements fully support the needs of DoD and VA clinicians. As practicing physicians, our CMIOs provide a unique perspective and are vital to accomplishing our mission.

Meet Our Staff – CAPT Trinh

As Director of IPO's Innovation & Engagement Division, CAPT Hung Trinh manages our organization's research into emerging technology and industry-based best practices to improve interoperability and healthcare for beneficiaries. He often travels to offsite educational events to represent IPO and engage with innovation specialists across the private, public, and academic sectors. Prior to joining IPO in 2012, CAPT Trinh worked as an engineer and program manager for the DoD and other Federal Government agencies. Through his hard work and positive demeanor, CAPT Trinh serves as an asset to his team, IPO, and the Departments. *Thank you, CAPT Trinh, for your efforts!*



If you would like to contribute to *The IPO Bridge*, please contact dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil.