



Message From Our Leadership

Welcome to the eleventh edition of the Department of Defense (DoD)/Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Interagency Program Office's (IPO) quarterly bulletin, The IPO Bridge! Inside, we highlight interagency activities and our recent accomplishments as we support the Departments' efforts in advancing data interoperability across the DoD, VA, and other partner systems worldwide. As a collective entity comprised of both DoD and VA representatives, we remain devoted to facilitating coordination and collaboration between the Departments as the health IT field evolves. We thank you, our partners in health, for your support to advance military and veterans' health through meaningful, standardized information sharing. If you have feedback or questions, please contact dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil.



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



Helga E. Rippen, MD, Ph.D., MPH, FACPM
Deputy Director, DoD/VA IPO

IPO Receives Approval From JEC on EHRM Governance

In September, the IPO received Joint Executive Committee approval for the establishment of a DoD/VA Electronic Health Record (EHR) Modernization Governance structure, which is comprised of a Joint Technical Governance Board (JTGB), a Joint Functional Governance Board (JFGB), and a Joint EHR Decision Board (JDB) for the new EHR system. The JTGB is tasked with adjudicating and resolving inter-Department EHR technical issues and inter-Department synchronization issues related to interfaces, data, and software maintenance/upgrade schedules. The JFGB is responsible for adjudicating and resolving joint functional challenges related to workflow and content. The JDB will address and resolve joint programmatic issues escalated by the JTGB or JFGB to ensure Department collaboration when a common issue is identified. As Executive Secretariat, the IPO will facilitate board member selection and roles, manage the process to collect information, and communicate assessments and board decisions. The IPO will also provide best practice and a common standard operating procedure for capturing artifacts to support requested decisions from the DoD/VA boards.



FedHealthIT & FedScoop Awards

In October, FedHealthIT honored Dr. Thompson as a recipient of the 2018 Leading for IMPACT, Women in Leadership Award during the "Leading for IMPACT in Federal IT & Consulting, Women in Leadership Conference." Dr. Thompson shared her perspectives on change management and cultural transformation and provided advice on the collaborative approaches to drive successful outcomes for organizations in a keynote panel discussion.



In November, FedScoop honored Dr. Thompson as a recipient of the Federal Leadership award during their 2018 FedScoop 50 Awards ceremony, celebrating outstanding achievements and tireless efforts to positively impact the government and public service communities from the best and the brightest of the federal government.

Lastly, this month, Dr. Thompson and the IPO's Chief of Staff (CoS), Ms. Camala Price, were named the recipients of the FedHealthIT 100 Award. This honor recognizes an individual's efforts to drive change, and advance the federal health information technology market. The winners are featured in the Fed Health IT Magazine's Winter 2019 Issue. For this year's list of top 100 Federal Health IT leaders, please click [here](#).

IPO Presents at AMIA

In November, the IPO attended the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) 2018 Conference in San Francisco, CA, and presented a study on dual consumers of the DoD and VA health systems. The display demonstrated the Departments' approaches to delivering care to their beneficiaries through a combination of direct-care services from government-operated facilities and purchased-care services from non-government institutions. While the systems operate independently, the Departments share a subset of dual-eligible patients who receive care from both systems. The study identified and analyzed the number of active dual consumers, defined as patients with at least one "encounter" at both a DoD and VA facility in 2016, by identification, geographic location, and patterns of specific health services.



Cerner Health Conference

In October, Dr. Thompson joined leadership from the VA's Office of EHR Modernization (OEHRM), Cerner, and MedStar Health in a fireside chat at the Cerner Health Conference in Kansas City, MO, sharing IPO's recent progress and advancements to enhance interoperability with community provider networks and application programming interface standardization. During the discussion, Dr. Thompson stated that "enabling health information exchange and interoperability between EHR systems across DoD, VA, and the private sector will serve as the foundation for patient-centered healthcare, seamless care transitions, and improved care for our service members, veterans, and their families." Click [here](#) to learn more.



ONC Annual Meeting

In November, the IPO participated at the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology's (ONC) Annual Meeting. The event featured panel discussions and breakout sessions on improving the usability and interoperability of health IT and other key administration priorities. Dr. Thompson participated in a breakout session titled, "Achieving Seamless Care Through Health Data Interoperability," where she noted the continued importance of health IT and EHRs as an essential part of delivering quality care to our beneficiaries. In addition, Co-Lead of IPO's Interagency Coordination Division, Ms. Yvonne Cole, participated in a breakout session to discuss the Departments' recent progress to enhance interoperability through metrics and analytics. Lastly, the IPO's Chief Medical Information Officer team showcased recent studies on health data interoperability outcome-oriented metrics, most common allergen terms between the DoD and VA, and the dual consumers of DoD and VA health systems. Click [here](#) for more information.



Dr. Thompson discusses current data sharing initiatives between DoD, VA, and private sector partners.



Dr. Thompson and Ms. Cole stop for a photo during their breakout session at ONC's Annual Meeting.

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

14 JALFHCC IM/IT Executive Session Meeting

JANUARY

9 DoD/VA EHRM Coordination Meeting
10 Interagency IT Steering Committee
12-18 HL7 WG
23 Joint Engineering & Architecture Work Group Monthly Meeting
ONC Health IT Advisory Committee Meeting

FEBRUARY

11-15 HIMSS19 Conference
13 DoD/VA EHRM Coordination Meeting
Joint Engineering & Architecture Work Group Monthly Meeting
14 Interagency IT Steering Committee



Most Common Allergen Terms at AMSUS

In November, IPO representatives attended the Society for Federal Health Professionals (AMSUS) Annual Meeting and presented research on the most common medication allergen terms in the DoD and VA's EHRs, matched to their corresponding RxNorm term. The DoD and VA EHR databases contain allergy information for millions of beneficiaries dating from three decades ago. Expert opinion indicates medication allergies follow a "90-10 rule," where 90% of medication allergies are related to 10% of medications. The allergen information within the DoD and VA databases indicates the most-common allergen terms for a broad group of the American population and defines a list of allergen terms important for inter-institution exchange. The study found that a limited list will inform specifications for health data exchange and development of EHR vendor priorities.



DoD/VA Industry Interoperability Roundtable

In November, the IPO conducted its seventh semi-annual DoD/VA Industry Interoperability Roundtable, continuing the theme of "the Journey of Interoperability" and bringing together attendees from the DoD, VA, ONC, academia, and the private sector. Leadership from the DoD and VA discussed current initiatives, such as the rollout of MHS GENESIS, status of the Departments' health information exchange projects, and challenges impacting interoperability, as well as emerging solutions to improve healthcare for our service members, veterans, and their families. The event also featured a discussion on CDS Hooks, a SMART/Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources technology that allows third-party CDS systems to register with an EHR using a "hook" pattern; healthcare innovation advancements; and the ongoing EHR modernization efforts by the Departments.



Dr. Thompson and Dr. Rippen provide opening remarks at the DoD/VA Industry Interoperability Roundtable.

Ms. Jean Lose Retires from IPO

Please join us in recognizing Ms. Jean Lose on her retirement with the federal government. Serving as an IT Technical Project Manager within the IPO's Standards & Technology Division, Ms. Lose led the development of its foundational strategic and technical guidance documents to the Departments, IPO, and their key stakeholders: the Health Information Interoperability Technical Package and the DoD/VA Joint Interoperability Strategic Plan. She also played a pivotal role in the IPO's collaboration with Health Level Seven® International through various projects and monthly ballot cycles on emerging health data standards. Her efforts supported the highest level of interoperability in healthcare records belonging to the DoD, VA, and private partners, improving healthcare for service members, veterans, and their families. We wish Ms. Lose the best with her future endeavors.



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Meet Our Staff – Ms. Camala Price



Serving as the CoS of the IPO, Ms. Camala Price leads the day-to-day execution of IPO activities to ensure the seamless integration of health data between DoD, VA and private health care providers. She enables transparent interaction and communication between the Departments, standards development organizations, and other public and private sector agencies as they continue their electronic health record modernization efforts. In addition, she manages the front office, strategic communications and operations teams, as well as the parameters of cost, schedule, risk, and performance processes for the IPO.

Thank you for your hard work Ms. Price!



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