



PROVEN

Coordinating Hub to Promote Research
Optimizing Veteran-centric EHR Networks

PROVEN Hub Newsletter

April 2024

Welcome to the PROVEN Hub Newsletter!

The PROVEN Hub is designed to provide a single point of contact for the VA research community to design, conduct, and disseminate cutting-edge, operationally prioritized research and evaluation in support of a safe, effective, and efficient implementation of the Federal EHR (formerly Oracle) throughout VA.

HSR Research and EHR Synergy Cyberseminar Series

**A Comparison of Encounter Data Between VistA/CPRS
& the Federal Electronic Health Record Systems**

**Wednesday, May 22, 2024
12:00pm ET/9:00am PT**

[Register now](#)

Presenters:

***Michael Matheny, MD, MS, MPH, FACMI, FAMIA
Michele LeNoue-Newton, PhD***

Electronic health records (EHR) capture a vast quantity of data related to patient care, including health systems data related to workflows and patient clinic flow. Data related to patient clinic flow is used both operationally and for research purposes to improve patient care and increase efficiency. The details and types of data captured can vary dependent on the EHR and implemented workflows. As the Veteran's Affairs health system transitions from the legacy in-house VistA/CPRS EHR to the Federal EHR. It is important for researchers and operations data users to understand the similarities and differences in the data captured between the two systems. In this Cyberseminar, we will present our work exploring the documentation and representation of encounter workflow data associated with 1) inpatient stays and admissions, 2) emergency care, and 3) outpatient care. The work focuses on similarities and differences in operational data availability and representation between the Federal EHR and VistA/CPRS within both the front-end user interface and the clinical data warehouse transform of the data.

Check out the [archive](#) of previous presentations in this series.

Updated Proposal Guidance for Investigators Addressing EHRM in Applications – April 2024

As VA continues its Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) through implementation of the new Federal EHR in VHA facilities, researchers will have to adapt their study designs to accommodate new EHR workflows and changes in data utility and comparability.

Additional considerations may include the impact on sampling, site selection, and comparability implications across sites for multisite studies. This memo is designed to provide guidance on how to address the EHR modernization in applications to HSR or QUERI effective immediately insofar as the proposed research relies on the use of the VA EHR or data from it. This guidance will be updated ahead of each submission cycle as the new EHR rollout progresses and as new information about the resulting Federal EHR data and tools becomes available.

Updated guidance for Spring 2024 can be found [here](#).

VA EHRM Researcher Spotlight

Hardeep Singh, MD, MPH

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center and Baylor College of Medicine, Houston



Hardeep Singh, MD, MPH is a Professor of Medicine at the Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety (IQEST) based at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center and Baylor College of Medicine, Houston. He leads a portfolio of multidisciplinary patient safety research related to measurement and reduction of diagnostic errors in health care and improving the use health information technology. His research has informed several national and international patient safety initiatives and policy reports, including those by the National Academies, CDC, NQF, AMA, ACP, AHRQ, OECD and the WHO. He serves as a nominated member of National Academies' Board of Health Care Services and is an elected Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics for significant and sustained

contributions to the field of biomedical informatics. His contributions include co-developing the "ONC SAFER Guides" which are CMS required guides that provide national recommendations for safe electronic health record use, co-chairing or participating on several national panels and workgroups on measuring or improving safety, and developing pragmatic resources to promote patient safety and diagnostic excellence in clinical practice. He has received several prestigious awards for his pioneering work, including the AcademyHealth Alice S. Hersh New Investigator Award in 2012, the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) from President Obama in 2014, the VA Health System Impact Award in 2016, the 2021 John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award for Individual Lifetime Achievement, and the Mark L. Graber Diagnostic Quality Award in 2023.

Dr. Singh leads a PROVEN rapid pilot project called The SAFER VA EHRM Project: A Proactive Self-Assessment of Patient Safety. This project evaluates how ONC SAFER Guides may be useful for assessing EHR safety in the VA. Dr. Singh recently received funding from VA HSR to develop, validate, and implement EHR safety measures and monitoring mechanisms to assess patient safety during EHR transitions.

VA EHRM Partners in Focus

Jonathan Nebeker, MD

Executive Director, Clinical Informatics, Office of Health Informatics (OHI), VHA



Dr. Nebeker is Chief Medical Informatics Officer (CMIO) at Veterans Health Administration (VHA) central office and Professor of Medicine at the University of Utah. His degrees and training took place at Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania. He practices geriatrics at the Salt Lake City VA Medical Center. He has been the clinical and/or informatics lead of all EHR-related programs at VA from 2014 through present. He works with other federal agencies and industry associations on standards and best practices to help VHA participate in markets of health IT and content. He recently catalyzed VA's modernization of its analytical platform and is leading with IT partners the VA digital health strategy.

His research has three areas of focus: adverse drug events, human interface design, and analytical systems/advanced process analysis. His work concerning the characterization, epidemiology, and prevention of adverse drug events is widely cited. Much of this work concerns how EHRs help or don't help prevent these events. From 2005 through 2015, he focused on translating basic science of cognitive and social psychology to medical informatics and EHR design. Randomized controlled trials of his novel user-interface designs have demonstrated increased accuracy of and decreased time to diagnosis of medical conditions. He incorporates these lessons into the design of VA's EHR systems. In 2008, he established the scientific computing infrastructure for Veterans Health Administration. His research now focuses on machine learning and artificial intelligence for human and electronic process control in support of a highly reliable, learning health system.

VA EHRM Research Resources

The PROVEN [Project Registry](#) contains current information on EHRM projects.

The EHRM-IO Intranet web page provides updates on the [deployment schedule](#) when they become available.

Access VIREC's [Federal EHR Data Documentation & Resources](#) on the Intranet.

VIREC's Summary Documentation Tables include detailed information about data found in the [Corporate Data Warehouse](#). (Intranet site)

[Federal EHR Data](#) on the VHA Data Portal contains information about the data available, and how to access data for research, quality improvement, and operations projects. (Intranet site)

[EHRM-IO Data Migration and Management team SharePoint site](#) links to resources related to data syndication. (Intranet site)

[EHRM & Research SharePoint](#) has research resources related to the Federal EHR implementation. (Intranet site)

***Are you conducting an EHRM research or quality improvement project?
Let us know at provenhub@va.gov***

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