



**Department of Defense
and
Department of Veterans Affairs
Good News
December 2007**



Welcome to Good News. This Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) newsletter highlights the accomplishments and sharing activities at both the local and national levels.

VA/DoD Demonstration Project Close Out Visits

The co-chairs for the VA/DoD Health Care Resources Sharing and Coordination Demonstration Projects, Mr. Ken Cox, (DoD co-chair) and Mr. Tom Stranova, (VA co-chair), have recently visited several Fiscal Year 2003 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) demonstration sites to meet with local project teams, talk with local leadership and formally close the projects. These NDAA demonstrations include budget/financial management; staffing/assignment; and information management/information technology (IM/IT) projects. All seven demonstration sites (Anchorage, Alaska; Augusta, Georgia; El Paso, Texas; Hampton, Virginia; Honolulu, Hawaii; Puget Sound, Washington; and San Antonio, Texas) are in the process of completing and submitting their individual final reports on the four-year demonstration projects to the DoD/VA Program Coordination Office. Mr. Cox and Mr. Stranova will conclude their demonstration close out site visits on January 9, 2008 at the Augusta Veterans Affairs Medical Center with the local VA and Army leadership.

VA and DoD Joint Strategic Plan Signed

The VA/DoD Fiscal Year 2008-2010 Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) has been signed by the Deputy Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Gordon Mansfield and the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Dr. David Chu. The JSP outlines the goals and objectives for VA and DoD collaboration and sharing. The mission of the JSP is to improve the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of the delivery and benefits and services to veterans, Service members, military retirees, and their families through an enhanced VA and DoD relationship. The complete JSP can be found at the following link:

<http://www.tricare.mil/DVPCO/strategic.cfm>

Enhanced Health Information Sharing Capabilities

DoD is pleased to announce yet another major milestone in DoD/VA sharing made possible by the enterprise-wide release of enhancements to the Bidirectional Health Information Exchange (BHIE) and the Clinical Data Repository/Health Data Repository (CHDR) interfaces.

With the new enhancements in place, each agency is now able to view the other agency's clinical encounters, procedures, and problems lists on shared patients using BHIE. This adds to the pharmacy, allergy, microbiology, and chemistry/hematology data, as well as radiology reports that were made available earlier this year. Additionally, DoD providers are also able to view theater data (including inpatient data) from the Theater Medical Data Store (TMDS) without having to log out of AHLTA and into another application to see it.

On Tuesday, December 18, 2007 the Clinical Information Technology Program Office (CITPO) announced to the Services that CHDR is now available for use at all Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs).

The CHDR software actively synchronizes data between the DoD's Central Data Repository (CDR) and the VA's Health Data Repository (HDR) for Active Dual Consumers (ADCs) who receive health services from both agencies. That synchronization significantly increases patient safety by enabling drug-drug and drug-allergy interaction checks with data from DoD, VA, and DoD retail network pharmacies. CHDR has been operating on a limited basis since late 2007, but new configuration enhancements have enabled all sites to activate patients as ADCs.

MTFs can take advantage of this new capability by setting the CHDR ADC flags. Instructions and some training materials are available at the following website: <https://fieldservices2.saic.com>. The Military Health System (MHS) Helpdesk is also available for technical support at (800) 600-9332.

Providing the best possible care for America's returning wounded warriors continues to be a top priority for both the DoD and VA and we are excited about the advances that have been made.

Air Force DoD/VA Sharing Information Online

The Air Force Medical Service is building a DoD/VA page on the Air Force Medical Service Knowledge Exchange website. The DoD/VA sharing page currently includes information on Air Force-specific sharing agreement requirements and the Joint Incentive Fund program. The page will continue to be populated and updated. To view the Air Force Medical Service DoD/VA page, click on <https://kx.afms.mil/kxweb/dotmil/kj.do?functionalArea=DoDVASharing>.

2008 MHS Conference—"Caring for America's Heroes"

The 2008 MHS Conference is scheduled for January 28-31, 2008 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC. The theme of this year's conference is "Caring for America's Heroes." The conference begins with a full day of plenary sessions. Additional plenary sessions are scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon includes breakout sessions from the many sectors of the MHS. More than 3,000 MHS military and civilian medical personnel are expected to attend the conference. For the conference agenda, please visit the following web site: <http://www.tricare.mil/conferences/2008mhs/BreakoutSessionDescriptions.xls>

For questions please contact the appropriate point of contact below.

Ms. Veronica Singfield

AMEDD DoD/VA Healthcare Resources
Sharing Program
703-681-2708
Veronica.Singfield@us.army.mil

Ms. Crystal Coleman

Communications, DoD/VA Program
Coordination Office
TRICARE Management Activity/Health Affairs
Department of Defense
703-681-4258
crystal.coleman.ctr@tma.osd.mil

Ms. Tamara L. Rollins

DoD/VA Program Manager
Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
202-762-3520
Tamara.Rollins@med.navy.mil

Ms. Betty Ruschmeier

Director, VA/DoD Liaison and Sharing Office
Veterans Health Administration
202-461-6534
Elizabeth.Ruschmeier@va.gov

Ms. Debra Irwin, DAFC

Chief, DoD/VA Resource Sharing
HQ USAF/SG3S
202-767-4150
debra.irwin@pentagon.af.mil

Good News is published monthly. If you have any good news stories and or accomplishments from your local teams, please send them to Crystal Coleman at crystal.coleman.ctr@tma.osd.mil and your stories may be included in a future issue of the newsletter.

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