

JUNE 7-8, 2011

TMA Privacy Weekly

TMA Privacy and Civil Liberties Office
2011 DATA PROTECTION SEMINAR



Emerging Health Information Technology in DoD



Emerging Health Information Technology in DoD

Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to provide essential information on the Nationwide Health Information Network (NwHIN), the Data Use and Reciprocal Support Agreement (DURSA), the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER), and Electronic Health Record (EHR) Way Ahead.



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Objectives

- Upon completion of this presentation, you should be able to:
 - Explain what the NWHIN is and who can participate in it
 - Describe the DURSA and identify its purpose
 - Explain the VLER Initiative and the VLER capability areas
 - Explain DoD's objectives for VLER and EHR Way Ahead
 - Discuss how these emerging technologies will work together for service members, veterans and beneficiaries
 - Through the availability of secure online access to their records to include comprehensive health, benefits, and administrative records
 - While ensuring safeguards are in place to protect the privacy and security of protected health information (PHI) and personally identifiable information (PII)



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Understanding the NwHIN

- The NwHIN is an integral part of the nation's health information technology (HIT) agenda
- The NwHIN will support and help execute Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act goals, including “meaningful use” of HIT by healthcare providers and institutions
- The current NwHIN model is in limited production, with use ramping up through federal contracts and grants
- NwHIN is DoD's chosen vehicle to support VLER



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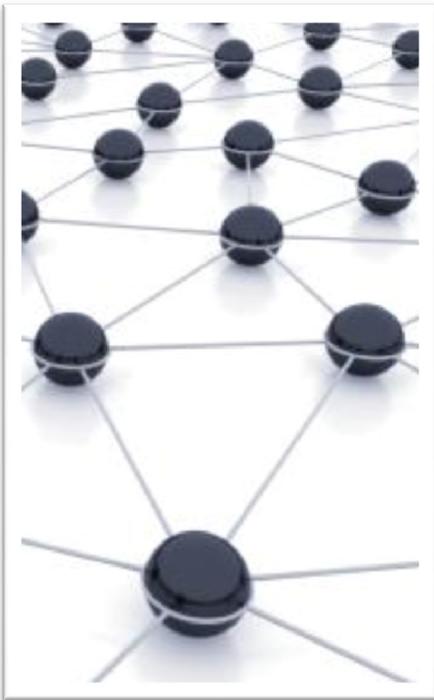


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Understanding the NwHIN Model

- ***A confederation of trusted entities, bound by mission and governance to securely exchange health information***



- Participants facilitate information exchange with a broad set of users, systems, and geographies
- The Internet is the “backbone”
- The technology is based on a common implementation of standards and specifications with secure transport



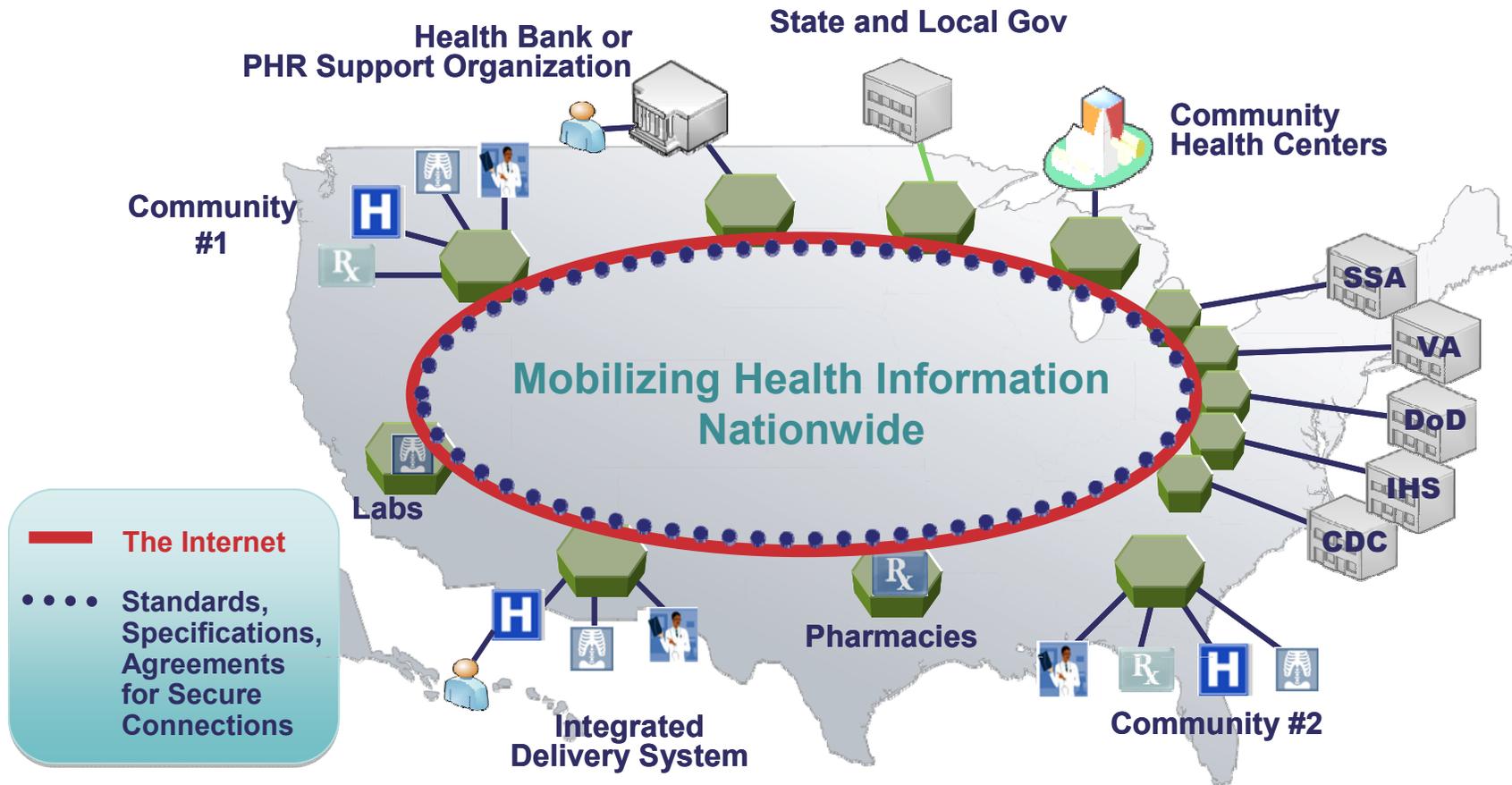
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Mobilizing Health Information Nationwide



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Understanding the DURSA

- The DURSA is a multi-party trust agreement that provides the legal framework for information exchange across a broad range of public and private entities in the NwHIN
- All eligible entities wishing to exchange data across the NwHIN must sign the DURSA
- The DURSA is a living document that will be modified over time and in response to any relevant new laws



Privacy and Security Implications in the DURSA

- To effectively enable the exchange of health information in a manner that protects the privacy, confidentiality, and security of the data, the DURSA adopts the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy and Security Rules as minimum requirements
- Under the DURSA, participants must continue to comply with existing privacy and security obligations under applicable law (e.g., HIPAA or other federal or state statutes and regulations)
- Participants that are not HIPAA covered entities, HIPAA business associates, or government agencies, are obligated to comply with HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules as a “contractual standard of performance”



Recent DURSA Milestones

- June 2009 – Draft Limited Production DURSA submitted for federal clearance
- November 18, 2009 – Executable version of DURSA was ready to sign
- January 29, 2010 – The Deputy Secretary of Defense executed the DURSA and DoD became a participant to the NwHIN
- Currently, the NwHIN Coordinating Committee and DURSA Amendment Task Group are working on final DURSA revisions



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Background: Interagency Interoperability

- Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and DoD Military Health Services (DoD/MHS) have been working EHR information technology (IT) issues **together** for decades
- Veterans Affairs (VA)/VHA currently uses Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA)/Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS), and DoD/MHS uses AHLTA/Composite Health Care System (CHCS)
- Both departments have come to rely on their own EHR systems and utilize them everyday
- This “working-together” effort has resulted in products such as the Bi-Directional Health Information Exchange (BHIE) and the Clinical and Health Data Repositories (CHDR)
- These efforts have resulted in high levels of interoperability for healthcare delivery between the two departments



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Understanding the VLER Initiative

On April 9, 2009, President Obama directed DoD and VA to create the VLER



“... will ultimately contain administrative and medical information from the day an individual enters military service throughout their military career and after they leave the military.”

- President Barack Obama



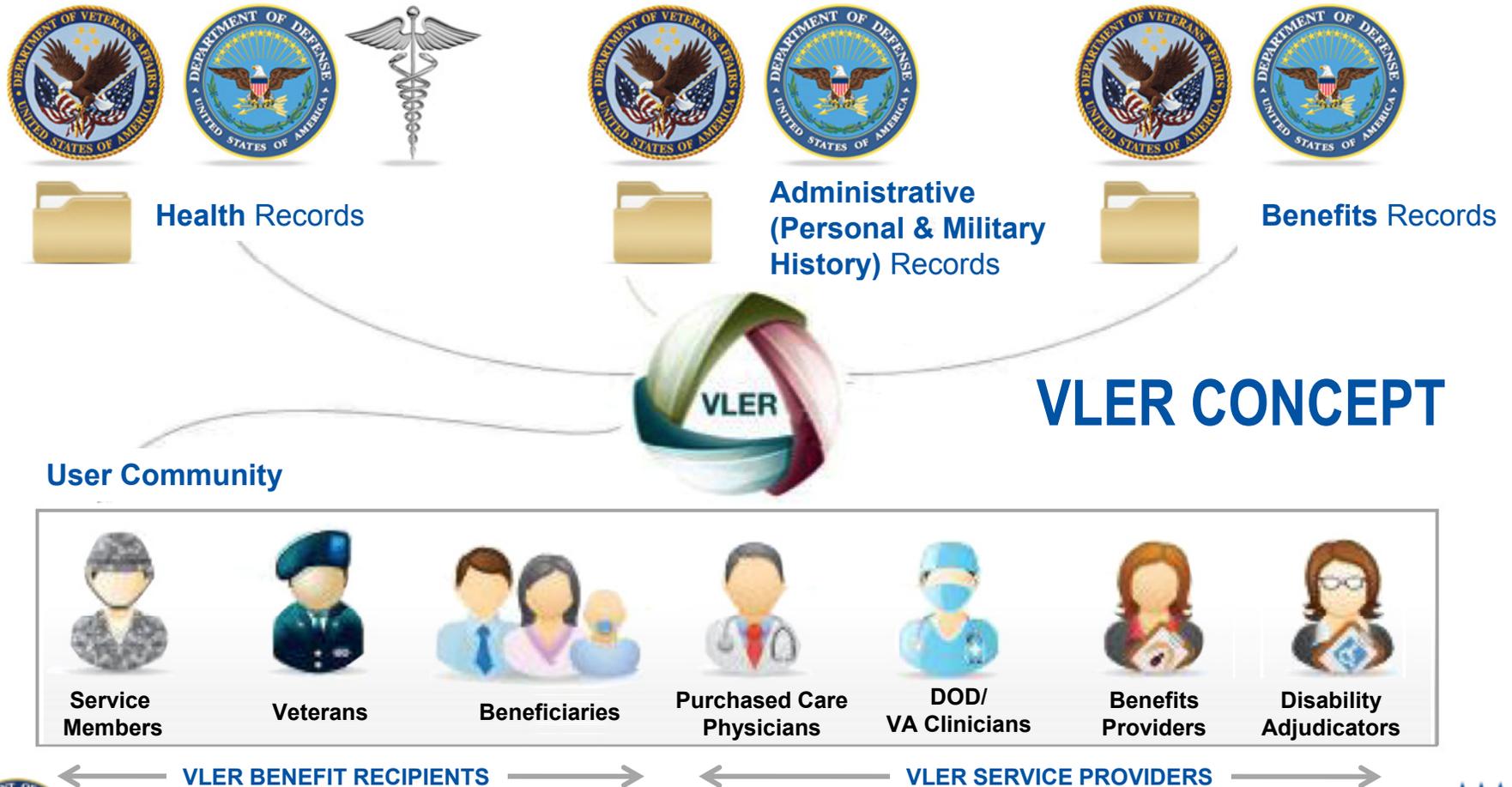
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Understanding the VLER Initiative (continued)



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Understanding VLER Capability Areas (VCAs)



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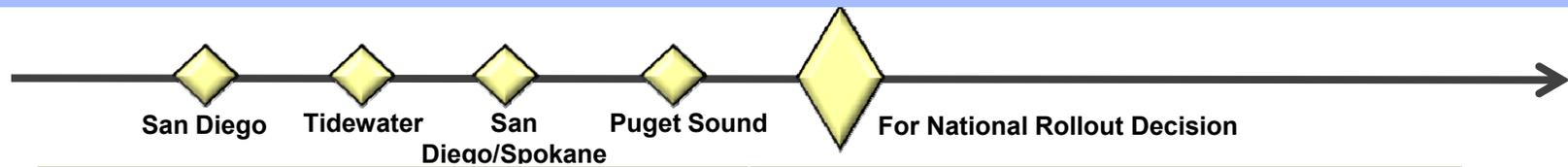


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VLER Timeline and Pilots

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
VCA1: Foundational Clinical Health Data Exchange via NwHIN: Clinicians Caring for Service Members & Veterans						



By January 2010 – San Diego (Deployed)	By September 2011 – Puget Sound (To Be Implemented)
Health Care Provider	Vital Signs
Allergy/Drug Sensitivity	Immunizations (VA)
Condition (Problem List)	Consults/Referrals *
Medications	Discharge Summaries *
Information Source Support	Results of Diagnostics Studies *
Person Information	Procedure Notes *
Language Spoken	History & Physical *
By September 2010 – Tidewater (Deployed)	List of Encounters
Hematology Lab Results	List of Surgeries
By March 2011 – Spokane (Being Implemented)	* Development is reliant on further investigation of other available standards
Chemistry Lab Results	



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EHR Way Ahead Vision

- Enables patient-centric, world-class health care for all service members, veterans, and beneficiaries
- Provides seamless information flow across the continuum of health care
- Ensures access to the right data, for the right patient, at the right time
- EHR Way Ahead will replace AHLTA as the VLER initiative continues



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Understanding EHR Way Ahead



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EHR Way Ahead Objectives



Stabilize



Comprehensive



Enhanced

Near Term (1-2 Years)

- Full interoperability with the VA for the provision of clinical care
- Leadership role in Nationwide Health Information Network pilot
- Blueprint the Enterprise Architecture
- Improve the user experience
- Stabilize system performance and reliability
- Address critical functionality gaps
- Stabilize core infrastructure
- Preliminary modernization efforts (web services)

Mid Term (2-3 Years)

- Extend the Nationwide Health Information Network pilot for incremental interoperability with private sector and other government agencies
- Empower patients to manage their own health through the personal health record
- Execute Enterprise Architecture Blueprint
- Enhance the user experience
- Improve system performance and reliability
- Implement modernization efforts
- Standardize architecture
- Provide new capabilities

Long Term (3-5 Years)

- Expand Nationwide Health Information Network to improve comprehensive interoperability
- Extend and Enhance Enterprise Architecture
- Optimize the user experience
- Transition to a future open architecture
- Implement next generation capabilities
- Provide robust standards based information sharing
- Provide new capabilities

Rapid Prototyping - Piloting - Test becomes production



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Lessons Learned

- Crucial to have community and regional health exchange readiness for departmental success
- Data standardization and varying identity management procedures pose a challenge to interoperability
- User training is of utmost importance
- Must be user-friendly for providers with very small response times



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Summary

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Resources

- The Department of Health and Human Services Health IT home page is located at: <http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt>
- The latest updates regarding the NwHIN: <http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=1142&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=4&mode=2>
- Information on the VLER initiative is available via DoD Personnel and Readiness Information Management (P&R IM) Web site at: <https://www.mpm.osd.mil>
- DoD 6025.18-R, “DoD Health Information Privacy Regulation”, January 2003



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Resources (continued)

- DoD 8580.02-R, “DoD Health Information Security Regulation”, July 2007
- DURSA:
<http://www.tricare.mil/tma/privacy/downloads/DURSA.pdf>
- To subscribe to the Privacy Office E-News, go to:
<http://www.tricare.mil/tma/privacy/maillinglist.aspx>
- E-mail Privacymail@tma.osd.mil for subject matter questions



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