



Health IT Wins!

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WIN!: Consumer-Mediated Health Information Exchange

As part of a pilot program, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) patients who receive care in their local community can use their VA patient portal, My Health^eVet, to electronically transmit their VA Health Summary (CCDA) using Direct Messaging to a community health care provider to promote care coordination. The VA Health Summary includes information on a patient's allergies, medications, recent test results, etc.

Who: VA Patients, Community Health Care Providers

When: Limited field testing summer 2015 with invited pilot participants. The ability to transmit the VA Health Summary is planned for national release in 2016 (tentative). Currently VA patients can print their health summary to share using the Blue Button in My Health^eVet.

Where: Iowa City VA Health Care System and Cornerstone Family Practice Guttenberg, IA. (field test). Across the country where VA has an established Direct Messaging connection (future).

Why: Many VA patients receive care at both VA and community health care organizations. It is critical that information be shared between organizations to promote care coordination. Patients can facilitate this information sharing and send their information by Direct Messaging.

What: VA patients with a My Health^eVet account receiving care at Cornerstone Family Practice and participating in the Veteran Initiated Electronic Care Coordination pilot were invited to test electronically sending their VA Health Summary. Participants logged into their My Health^eVet account, used the Blue Button to access their VA Health Summary, chose the "Send my health summary" option and completed steps to send their document including entering the Direct address for Cornerstone Family Practice. Messages were received by Cornerstone Family Practice in their IHIN Direct Web portal monitored by clinic staff and the VA Health Summary was added to Cornerstone Family Practice's electronic health record.

Benefits: VA medical record information is available to the patient's community health care provider at the point of care in their electronic health record. Eliminates the need for patients to print and bring paper copies of information. Promotes patient engagement and allows patients to review their own health information. Meets transmit requirement for Meaningful Use. May improve safety, quality, and efficacy of health care by improving medication reconciliation and avoiding duplication of labs or other tests.