US Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs (DOD/VA) integrated Electronic Health Record (iEHR) Strategy for Electronic Health Record Management and Preservation (EHR-MP)

For CODATA Conference Session on
Electronic Health Record Management and Preservation (EHR-MP)
October 28 - 31, 2012, Taipei, Taiwan
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Abstract

The Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) operate two of the nation's largest health care systems, providing health care to service members and veterans at estimated annual costs of about $49 billion and $48 billion, respectively. To do so, both departments rely on electronic health record systems to create, maintain, and manage patient health information. By February 2011, the Deputy Secretary of Veteran Affairs, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, and the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff agreed to an approach for a joint VA–DoD iEHR, formally establishing the Interagency Program Office (IPO) in support of the following joint goals:

- ✓ Improve the quality and accessibility of health care, benefits, and memorial services while optimizing value

- ✓ Optimize workflow for healthcare providers Increase service member and veteran satisfaction

Key to establishing a joint iEHR, including improvement of quality of care while conserving resources through identifying and utilizing commonality, is the establishment of a robust infrastructure. Loosely defined as the information technology components, this infrastructure will enable the delivery of new clinical capabilities to the end user. This iEHR infrastructure capability set will enable the effective, efficient delivery of capabilities while leveraging a shared services Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) paradigm.

The iEHR is intended to document, manage and seamlessly exchange each patient's health information, regardless of patient or provider location or situation by using common data standards, common information models, common terminology models, information exchange specifications, translation services, and Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) requirements for sharing data.

The paper discusses Electronic Health Record Management and Preservation (EHR-MP) accomplished by the iEHR HSP (Healthcare Services Platform) and its Common Information Interoperability Framework (CIIF).

Call for Paper and Participation

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The CODATA (Committee on Data, established since 1966), an interdisciplinary Scientific Committee of the International Council for Science (ICSU), which works to improve the quality, reliability, management and accessibility of data of importance to all fields of science and technology, is happy to host the conference sessions on Electronic Health Record on Management and Preservation at its 23rd Conference in Taipei, Taiwan, Oct. 28 – 31, 2012. Please help to circulate the attached flyer.

Background
The ability to apply standard and interoperable solutions to manage and preserve electronic health records (lab test results, CT scans, physician notes, pharmacies, long-term care, etc.) and migrate, distribute, replicate, and access these records from legacy formats and platforms to advanced standard formats and operating systems are vital for clinical care and medical research. However, management and systems interoperability for preservation, storage, and accessibility of such health data has not yet fully defined for electronic health records (EHRs). If management and preservation of clinical information are not addressed, valuable and irreplaceable information will become Inaccessible, or disappear over time with disastrous consequences for patient safety, care and research value. Replacing lost data even if possible, will entail huge costs for patients, clinicians, administrators, pharmacists, and potentially, the entire country's economy.

The conference session focuses on underlying models, methods, systems, and application areas, with a strong emphasis on clinical information modeling, system performance, and behavior (backward and forward compatibility).

The list of topics of interest includes, but is not limited to:
- Clinical Knowledge Modeling
- Universal Representation for Clinical Information
- EHR Management, Archival, and Preservation
- EHR System Architecture and Workflow
- EHR Harmonization
- EHR Format Migration Strategy
- EHR DICOM and Multimedia Management
- EHR/PHR Mobile Application
- EHR Systems for Clinical Research
- EHR Security, and Access Control
- EHR Metadata and Ontologies
- EHR Semantic Interoperability
- EHR Query Language
- Web Services to EHR Repositories

Paper Submission and Proceedings Publication
Full-length papers between 4 and 6 A4 pages are solicited. Detailed submission instructions will be posted on the EHR-MP website in due time. Each submission will go through peer-review process. The conference proceedings potentially be published by the ACM International Conference Proceedings Series.

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