

MHS Information Sharing for DoD Providers

Video Transcription – Full Video

(Time: 5:32)

http://www.ehealth.va.gov/MHS_DoD_video.asp

COL. JOHN SCOTT:

My name's John Scott. I'm a Colonel in the Army. I've been in the Army for 23 years and for the last nine months, I've been working at the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Clinical and Program Policy. I'm the Director of Informatics Policy.

We have a whole system called the Bidirectional Health Information Exchange (HIE). HIEs are getting common and getting lots of news in the whole country. But this one is a specific Bidirectional Health Information Exchange between the DoD and the VA. There are a number of different pieces in the system on both sides – both on the DoD side and VA. And what I wanted mostly to talk about today was my experience with the viewer of that system that I like best. There's a couple of choices for us, but the viewer that I like best will show how it organizes the information, and through it show how much information is available to be shared in the system.

I hope that our clinicians who learn to use the system better are going to make their patients feel better. That their information is there but that the current agreement between the DoD and the VA is that every part of the health care information in the DoD that we're putting into the long-term medical record – every bit that we make available to the VA.

How to get on the site is really just about all the training that I think your average clinician needs. The more use to using computer systems the clinician is, the easier it seems. The key to using it is for somebody to know the right URL because on this particular viewer system, this BHI sharing system – this is the Bethesda URL – and if you're not registered in the Bethesda CHCS Host it won't work for you.

And then it asks me for CHCS access and the verify code and that's the same as your access and verify code for Alta. And it logs you in to the system. And this is the basic start screen and so I've got the search screen here. I'll put in the name of a patient that's a fictitious

patient that's been created just for the purposes of DoD and VA people testing out the system.

The patient I want to look up is right there, so I click on the patient, and then what this viewer does is that it shows me in a summary screen everything that's available at my own CHCS host on that patient. Now the information that's displayed here – the way it looks is actually configurable. I can decide by clicking preferences which of the components I want there.

So I'm going to go back to the summary. This is the Problem List – the list of every diagnosis that's on that CHCS host that this patient has had. If I click the "more" button, it gives me a whole screen full of diagnoses. And if I click on one of these – like undiagnosed cardiac murmur – it tells me that this was put on there at the Pediatric Cardiology at Bethesda. I know that's true because I did it and know what that code is.

If I use the back button, it takes me back to the screen where I was before. You've got the Problem List, which we just talked about. You've got allergies, which is one of the most important things to share. You've got encounters. Another very important feature about this viewing system is this business called remote data. Only a few of these have that feature but very importantly documentation is one of them.

So I have to click the remote data thing. When it comes up with a new dialog box, it asks how far back do you want to go, and the default again is one year. Let's see if there is anything in the last few months. I'll just go back to June 1st to present looking for remote data and I say OK. It's now going everywhere that the VHIE system gets information from to find any note that was shared in the system as a note. Now I've got a list of the available notes that went back from June 1st to present on this patient.

If I click any of these hyperlinks I get to see that note in a separate window. I can copy and paste this. I can print this. I can do what I want with this note – just read it, refer to it and add my own note today. It works that way. It certainly makes it seem possible and I think reasonable to look up things that I would want to find that might have happened in the VA. When you go remote data for labs it even gets stuff that would have been done and reported in TC2 in the theatre. There are DoD folks who've taken care of patients

who've been to theatre and have used the systems and know what I mean by that.

It's my opinion that most clinicians can get a lot of the information they need with this with very little training as long as they have appropriate login credentials.