

"VA/DoD HEALTH INFORMATION SHARING" VIDEO

Video Transcription – Full Video

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MUSIC BEGINS

[Title Card:]

Securing Patient Data

[Marcia Insley]

As a consumer of health care I think that data sharing's incredibly important. It took me only until a few years ago to go to a clinician who actually walked in with a computer, something the VA has done for 15 years now.

And what that allows is us to exchange information related to the patient's health, no matter where the patient got that treatment.

[Elaine Hunolt]

Data sharing is critical to ensure that all a Veteran's clinicians whether they be working for VA or in the private sector have the most complete medical record to provide the best care.

[Stephanie Griffin]

Sharing health information between a patient's providers, such as between DoD and VA, helps ensure coordination of care by not repeating diagnostic testing on that patient and forcing that patient to undergo more lab tests or x-rays.

It also identifies drug-drug interactions with medications that are prescribed by different providers, and just ensures that the patient has better health care by having more coordinated health care.

[CAPT Margaret Beaubien NC, USN]

The two agencies have actually been sharing information for a very long period of time, going back to the early 2000s.

Since that point in time, the needs of our population, who are now moving back and forth between the active duty status to the Veteran status, has increased.

And so we are sharing more data that is both viewable, in terms of our bidirectional health information exchange of information, as well as computable data, which we share as part of our pharmacy and allergy exchange.

[Title Card:]

Commitment to Privacy

[Gail Graham]

Office of Informatics and Analytics plays a major role both in collaborating with Office of Information and Technology and with Department of Defense, with Health and Human Services to first develop policies that really protect the Veterans' information.

[Col. John S. Scott, M.D.]

The current agreement between the DoD and the VA, is that everything of the healthcare information in the DoD that we're putting into the long-term medical record, every bit of that, we make available to the VA.

While the patient expects us to share this information – and expects to be taken care of – they also expect us to be very careful with it and not share it with people who shouldn't be able to access your healthcare information.

[Dr. Stephen Hunt]

Healthcare information belongs to the Veteran – it doesn't really belong to the system – and yet we hold it for the Veteran. And we have to hold it in a way that's secure and that the Veteran can trust – and that we know the information can be used for the purposes it's meant for – and not other purposes.

It's a part of our respect and honor for Veterans that we safeguard this information – and that we use it in ways that serve them – and not in ways that in any way would put them at risk.

[Stephanie Griffin]

Veterans have many privacy rights under federal laws and regulations.

They have the right to a copy of their health information.

They have a right to request an amendment to have it corrected if they believe it's inaccurate or incomplete.

They have a right to have a Notice of Privacy Practices that outlines the key ways in which we share their information with external entities as well as how to exercise all of their privacy rights.

[Title Card:]

Privacy Compliance Assurance

[Marcia Insley]

The Office of Health Information Governance makes sure that the providers have access to all the patient information related to a patient's treatment no matter where they receive that treatment.

We also perform privacy compliance assurance visits to ensure that they're, one, using the data appropriately and more importantly they're securing that data and protecting it from misuse.

[Gail Graham]

Veterans Health Administration collaborates with VA to make sure that we have security on our networks and making sure we have a well-trained, well-informed workforce.

It is truly a partnership to make sure that this privacy is maintained of this precious information.

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