PROVEN

Coordinating Hub to Promote Research Optimizing Veteran-centric EHR Networks

PROVEN Hub Newsletter   December 2024

Welcome to the PROVEN Hub Newsletter!

The PROVEN Hub is designed to provide a single point of contact for the VA research community to design, conduct, and disseminate cutting-edge, operationally prioritized research and evaluation in support of a safe, effective, and efficient implementation of the Federal EHR throughout VA.

HSR Research and EHR Synergy Cyberseminar Series

A spotlight on success:
Insights from updated user experience survey results across EHRM sites

January 22, 2025
12:00pm ET/ 9:00am PT

Presenters:
Seppo Rinne MD, PhD, Jennifer Herout PhD, & Soumya Subramaniam, MPH

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This presentation highlights updated survey findings on user experience with EHR modernization across live sites, providing an in-depth look at a dynamic dashboard for data visualization. By examining variations across clinical roles, services, and sites, we identify high-performing units and uncover opportunities to guide future studies and improvement initiatives.

Check out the [archive](#) of previous presentations in this series.

Spotlight on PROVEN EHRM Project

Developing Safety Metrics for Safer EHR Transitions (VA Safety MEMO—Metrics for EHR MOdernization)

Jessica Davila, PhD, MS and Hardeep Singh, MD, MPH – Co-Chiefs, Health Policy, Quality and Informatics Program, Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety
Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX
Funding Source: Health Systems Research (SDR)
Project Dates: February 2024 – January 2026

Efforts to systematically monitor and reduce safety events associated with EHR transitions have been limited. Evidence-based strategies to measure EHR transition-related patient safety concerns are lacking. The goal of the VA Safety MEMO project is to develop, validate, and implement a set of high-priority safety measurements that can be integrated into routine clinical and safety operations.

To date, our team has conducted an environmental scan of peer-reviewed literature and other available reports and resources and developed a categorization of transition-related patient safety issues reported from within the VA. Over 60 full-text documents related to the EHRM transition have been reviewed. Preliminary analyses suggest that clinical inbox management, overall EHR design and use, and clinical alerts are key issues that stakeholders have identified as safety concerns that must be addressed.

Several informal interviews and expert panel discussions have also been conducted with VA leadership, stakeholders, and EHR end users. Panels have included multidisciplinary experts in clinical informatics, patient safety, and human factors engineering. Through these discussions and information from the environmental scan, we have generated a list of 32 potential safety measures for prioritization. In collaboration with VA leadership, end users, and other key personnel, the next steps will include assessing the feasibility of each measure, identifying necessary data sources, and building measurements into environments for pilot testing and implementation. A plan for evaluation of the measures will also be developed.

Highlighting the Work of the PROVEN Expert Stakeholder Panel

The PROVEN Expert Stakeholder Panel meets periodically to review PROVEN's strategy and activities, and to provide critical feedback. Our expert panelists represent a diversity of areas and have provided key insights into issues such as developing safety metrics for the EHR transition; optimizing the value of the research community and the transition; embedding innovation into the EHR; translating evidence into practice; anticipating and mitigating adverse effects; assessing the EHR's impacts on Veterans; recruiting and preparing the workforce for EHR modernization; accelerating the conduct of research; expanding and sustaining successful partnerships with VA leaders; and laying the groundwork for future success. The PROVEN team expresses sincere gratitude for this panel's involvement, dedication, wisdom, and guidance.

Panel Co-Leads

Michael Weiner, MD, MPH is the Health Informatics Core Lead for the Coordinating Hub to Promote Optimization of Veteran-centric EHR Research (PROVEN). He is a Scientist of the VA HSR Center for Health Information and Communication in Indianapolis, Indiana, and a Professor of Medicine at Indiana University. He studies the effects of health information and information technology on behaviors, clinicians' practices, and patients' outcomes.

Hardeep Singh, MD, MPH (Chair) is a Professor of Medicine at the Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety (IQuESt) based at the DeBakey VA Medical Center and Baylor College of Medicine, Houston and leads multidisciplinary patient safety research on measurement and reduction of diagnostic errors in health care and improving the use health information technology.

Current Panelists
(in alphabetical order)

Julia Adler-Milstein, PhD is a Professor of Medicine, and Chief of the Division of Clinical Informatics and Digital Transformation.
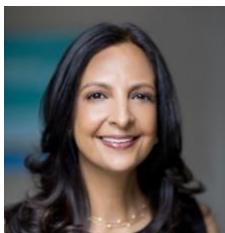

David Bates, MD, MSc is the Medical Director of Clinical and Quality Analysis at Mass General Brigham in Boston, MA. He is a Professor at Harvard Medical School and Professor of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Tonya Hongsermeier, MD, MBA currently serves as Vice President and Chief Clinical Innovation Officer at Elimu Informatics Inc.

Stan Huff, MD is the Chief Medical Informatics Officer at Graphite Health, and a Clinical Professor in the Department of Biomedical Informatics at the University of Utah.

Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH is the Senior Associate Dean of Clinical Research, Chair of the Department of Population Health Sciences, and the Nanette Laitman Distinguished Professor of Population Health Sciences at Weill Cornell Medicine. She is Physician-in-Chief of Population Health Sciences at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Blake Lesselroth, MD, MBI, FACP, MPH, FAMIA is an Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, Vice Chair of Medical Informatics, and Co-Director of the Medical Informatics elective and Health Systems Science in Practice course at the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa School of Community Medicine.

Thomas Payne MD, FACP, FACMI, FAMIA, FRCP Edin. is a primary care internist. He was formerly a Professor of Medicine, and Biomedical Informatics and Medical Education and Adjunct Professor in Health Sciences at the University of Washington School of Medicine (now professor emeritus). He also served as the Medical Director for Information Technology Services at UW Medicine.

Matthew Weinger, MD, MS holds the Norman Ty Smith Chair in Patient Safety and Medical Simulation, is Professor of Anesthesiology, Biomedical Informatics, and Medical Education at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine; Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the School of Engineering; and Director of the Vanderbilt Center for Research and Innovation in Systems Safety.

Jon White, MD is the Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development at the Veterans Affairs Salt Lake City Health Care System, and a Professor of Medicine at the University of Utah.

EHRM Patient Safety & Human Factors Research Workgroup

Our EHRM Patient Safety & Human Factors Research Workgroup was launched to help investigators develop ideas that result in funded research and evaluation projects related to the EHR transition. The workgroup, led by PROVEN co-investigators Drs. Kristina Cordasco and April Savoy, aims to support researchers by providing feedback on project ideas, connecting them with relevant operations partners, and identifying the resources they need to be successful. VA researchers with specific interests in patient safety or human factors engineering are invited to participate. The workgroup convenes on the 3rd Friday of each month.

If you are interested in participating in this workgroup, please email provenhub@va.gov with your VA location and a few sentences about your area of interest. *This group is currently open to VA researchers only.*

VA EHRM Research Resources

The PROVEN guidance for EHRM proposals has been updated for the current proposal cycle

The PROVEN Project Registry contains current information on EHRM projects

The EHRM-IO Sustainment Resource Center provides EHR end users with resources to education, information, and support (Intranet site)

View the podcast with Dr. Neal Evans, Acting Program Director of VA's Electronic Health Record Modernization Integration Office (EHRM-IO)

View current and past issues of the EHRM Navigator, a bi-weekly newsletter that covers all areas of the EHRM program, including news from VA medical centers, EHRM Reset updates, congressional updates, and more (Intranet site)

The Path to Restart Communications Toolkit provided by VA's EHRM-IO contains materials that may be referenced for communicating about the EHRM program reset (Intranet site)

Access the JGIM special issue "The Science of Electronic Health Record Transitions"

The EHRM-IO Intranet webpage provides updates on the deployment schedule when they become available (Intranet site)

Access VIReC's VA Millennium EHR Data Documentation & Resources on the Intranet.

VIReC's Summary Documentation Tables include detailed information about data found in the Corporate Data Warehouse (Intranet site)

VA Millennium EHR Data on the VHA Data Portal contains information about the data available, and how to access data for research, quality improvement, and operations projects. (Intranet site)

EHRM-IO Data Migration and Management team SharePoint site links to resources related to data syndication (Intranet site)

EHRM & Research SharePoint has research resources related to the Oracle Health EHR implementation. (Intranet site)

Are you conducting an EHRM research or quality improvement project?
Let us know at provenhub@va.gov

The PROVEN Team wishes you a happy and healthy holiday season. We'll see you in 2025!

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