

Timeline – VA’s Electronic Health Record History

- 1983 VA began operation of an internally developed electronic health records system.
- 1996 VA changed the name of its electronic health records system to Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA).
- 2001 VA began its first modernization project. Its goal was to standardize VA health records by eliminating the 130 different versions of VistA. VA estimated the modernization project would be completed in 2018 and cost \$11 billion to develop and implement.
- 2009 Following critical Government Accountability Office audits, cost overruns, and challenges meeting deadlines, VA announced it would stop financing failed projects and improve management of its information technology.
- 2011 VA began its second modernization project in coordination with the Defense Department and had the goal of creating a single, joint electronic health record system, called iEHR.* iEHR was to be completed by 2017 and was estimated to have a life-cycle cost of \$29 billion through fiscal year 2029.
- 2013 VA and DOD ended the iEHR project because deadlines were not being met and costs overruns.
- 2013 Later in 2013, VA began its third modernization project called “VistA Evolution.” VA estimated VistA Evolution would be completed by end of 2018 and cost of \$4 billion through fiscal year 2028.*
- 2015 DOD awarded a \$3.4 billion contract to Cerner Corporation for new electronic health record system.
- 2017 In June, VA decided to acquire the same Cerner system as DOD.
- 2018 In May, VA awarded a contract to Cerner.
- 2018 In June, VA created a new Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization.
- 2018 In September, VA and DOD signed a joint commitment to coordinate on the creation of interoperable electronic health record systems.

2020 In March, VA originally planned to roll out the new electronic record health system at three Initial Operating Capability (IOC) sites in the Pacific Northwest. VA notified Congress on February 10, 2020 that there will be a delay in the IOC deployments.

2028 VA will complete roll out at all VA hospitals, clinics and other facilities.

*Between fiscal years 2011 and 2016, VA spent \$1.1 billion on the joint VA-DOD integrated records and VistA Evolution initiatives.