

What is the Veterans Health Information Exchange (VHIE) Program?

The Veterans Health Information Exchange (VHIE) Program, formerly known as the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) Health, allows the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to be interoperable nationwide with community care partners. VHIE is building a national network of exchange by electronically sharing Veterans' health information through national trusted networks that securely exchange health information between VA and the community, both at an organizational level (VA Exchange) and at the personal provider level (VA Direct Messaging).

How does VA Exchange benefit Veterans?

Most Veterans use community health care providers in addition to their VA providers. VHIE will benefit the Veteran as:

- VA and community health clinicians have a more complete summary and picture of a Veteran's health
- Clinicians can easily share medication information
- It eliminates unnecessary medical tests

What are the criteria for your organization to connect with VA Exchange?

To begin on-boarding as an eHealth Exchange partner with VA, your organization must meet the following criteria:

- Be an eHealth Exchange participant
- Be certified on 2011 eHealth Exchange Specifications
- Have the ability to exchange Consolidated Clinical Document Architecture (C-CDA) Continuity of Care Document (CCD)
- Support bi-directional communications using Transport Layer Security (TLS) 1.2

In addition, having the below capabilities help support successful Veteran Health Information Exchange:

- Ability to send available identity traits in patient discover message, such as: full legal name, date of birth, gender, Social Security Number (SSN), address, and phone number to improve patient matching
- Unstructured Document Component (C62) data domains, if applicable
- Populated Consolidated-Clinical Document Architecture Continuity of Care Document (C-CDA CCD)
- C-CDA Single Encounter Summaries
- Capability for Electronic Health Record (EHR) alerts informing clinicians that VA health data is available for viewing
- Single sign-on functionality between the clinician EHR and the health information exchange data
- Ability for EHR and the health information exchange data to "pre-fetch" Veteran health data prior to patient encounter
- A plan to train your health care providers on how to access VA data



What are the on-boarding milestones for your organization to connect with VA Exchange?



Is your organization eligible for VA Exchange FAST TRACK on-boarding?

VA Exchange FAST TRACK on-boarding leverages a community partner's testing with the eHealth Exchange to bypass VA testing and move directly into production, thereby eliminating on-boarding milestone 3. Partners are required to meet the above on-boarding criteria and use an eligible Health Information Exchange (HIE) Gateway. Fast track eligible HIE Gateways must pass VA requirements, including data quality analysis.

With the FAST TRACK on-boarding process, many of our community partners report saving two to three months of valuable time and associated resources giving their providers access to Veteran health data sooner.

Start the process to become a VA Exchange partner today!

To start the process to become a VA Exchange partner, please contact the VA Exchange team at vaexchangeinformation@va.gov.

