



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

April 3, 2020

The Honorable John Boozman
Chairman
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The worldwide pandemic created by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has shifted the overall priorities of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Our priority is the care of Veterans and providing surge capabilities for civilian health care systems. Our clinical personnel and medical resources are focused on caring for Veterans and addressing the current pandemic.

With VA medical centers reallocating staff to manage Veteran patients with COVID-19, I directed the Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization (OEHRM) to immediately shift to a non-intrusive posture with VA health care operations to allow our frontline clinicians to focus on Veteran care. VA remains committed to implementing a state-of-the-market EHR system and will continue to work closely with Cerner Corporation, Department of Defense (DoD), the Federal Electronic Health Record Modernization Office, and other key partners to analyze COVID-19 impacts on EHRM. Core EHR software built in support of Mann-Grandstaff (Capability Set One) is now over 99 percent complete, with 72 of 73 interfaces complete and ready for testing.

There is still much work we can accomplish during this unprecedented time for our Nation. We have completed interface design, build, connectivity, and technical testing for all 72 interfaces required to support Go-Live for VA's new EHR solution. We have also completed 99 percent of the new clinician training system. Additionally, we are pleased to report that the Joint Health Information Exchange between VA and DoD remains on track for activation and delivery at the end of April 2020. The enclosure provides progress to date and reflects our best estimates based on known milestones going forward. VA will provide future updates when we have better visibility on when our health care personnel can resume working on the EHRM program regionally and nationally.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission. A similar letter has been sent to other leaders of the House and Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. Wilkie".

Robert L. Wilkie

Enclosure

**Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization
April 2020**

Progress to Date Summary		
Centralized Scheduling Solution	Interfaces (eight), infrastructure upgrades and necessary workflows completed or on track for completion in support of its projected go-live period.	Pushed right due to COVID-19.
Initial Operating Capability	Core EHR software build in support of Mann-Grandstaff (Capability Set One) is now over 99% complete, with 72 of 73 interfaces ready for testing. Substantial work continues to be performed in support of existing implementation objectives and timelines, including interface development, infrastructure upgrades, clinical workflow design and integrated testing.	Reflects substantial progress since last correspondence and are consistent with schedule updates provided to Congress in early March; due to COVID-19, analysis is extremely fluid at this juncture.
Joint Health Information Exchange	Between VA and DoD, remains on track for activation and delivery at the end of April 2020.	On track.