



What is the IHS•EHR Project?

The IHS•EHR project is an effort to establish an electronic medical record (EMR) capability within the IHS Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS). This project utilizes a product originally developed by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) called VueCentric, which provides a multi-tiered, component-based desktop application that supports a wide range of clinical functions using standardized, plug-in objects. The VHA utilized this object-oriented environment to create components that duplicate the functionality of their Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS).

The CPRS is an outstanding, feature rich electronic medical record that includes: provider order entry (of medications, laboratory tests, procedures, radiology tests and consults); clinical decision support with reminders, alerts, order checking, note authoring, and a unified electronic signature capability. VueCentric enables the IHS to selectively implement these CPRS functional components and additionally compliment them with internally developed components that run off the RPMS environment.

In order to implement the CPRS components it was first necessary to get the RPMS to be more current with the application and technology level of the VHA. This required implementation of numerous VHA packages, like Outpatient Pharmacy 7.0, Inpatient Pharmacy 5.0, Radiology 5.0, and the latest Laboratory patches, all of which had to be modified and tested for operation in the RPMS environment.

The modifications were necessary because of the need to incorporate past enhancements made by the IHS and to accommodate the unique differences between the VHA and IHS, such as our medical records being based on health record numbers instead of social security numbers. Besides the previously mentioned core packages, many infrastructure updates had to also be installed like: the latest Kernel patches, Fileman 22, Dietetics 5.0, Lexicon 2.0, National Drug File 4.0, Order Entry 3.0 and the Text Integration Utility. This activity is detailed in the following document: [MSM Installation Cookbook](#).

Because of significant differences between the RPMS and the VHA's medical information system architecture, such as the use of differing files for the storage of data related to problem lists, measurements, immunizations and procedures, it was necessary to make substantial modifications to the CPRS components and to develop many additional components. Some of the components that have been developed to operate off

the RPMS environment include: POV, Problem List, Procedures, Evaluation & Management Coding, Current Visit Charges, Immunizations, Health Factors, Exams, Patient Education, Triage, Clinical Queue and a Remote Data View component. Screen shots of these components can be seen at the following link: [Screen Shots](#).

Three providers at the Crow/Northern Cheyenne Hospital have been using the IHS•EHR in production operation for all patient encounters since the week of June 24th. Immediate and ongoing benefits to the IHS are improved clinical efficiency, enhanced documentation, reduced waiting times and medical error rates, increased collections, and improved patient and employee satisfaction.