

**AUGUST
SPECIAL
EDITION**

The HEALTH IT MODERNIZATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

LAWTON PATH EHR: THE PATHWAY TO READINESS & GO-LIVE

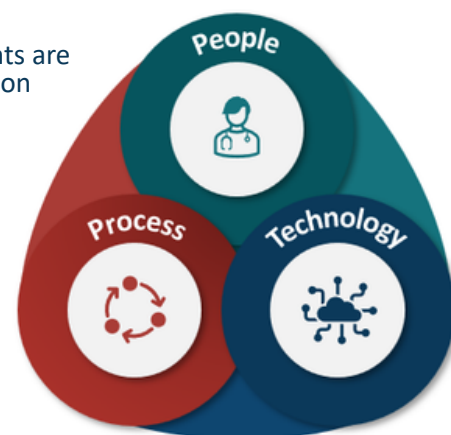
Program Update & Strategic Focus

The Lawton Service Unit electronic health record (EHR) deployment schedule has been updated to align with the revised go-live date. This special edition provides progress updates, site highlights, and recent successes as we approach go-live. On-site teams are currently validating data, synchronizing technical systems, and leading intensive user training to ensure operational readiness. This coordination successfully aligns clinical, administrative, and technical workflows to build a reliable infrastructure for staff and patients.

What We're Learning: Balancing People, Process, and Technology

As the Lawton Service Unit navigates the electronic health record implementation, key insights are shaping both current operations and the strategy for future deployment sites. Success relies on balancing three core pillars:

- **People:** Engaging staff early and often identifies clear roles, provides direct access to resources, and builds the baseline readiness and confidence needed for a smooth transition.
- **Process:** Validating clinical and operational workflows early in the timeline directly streamlines system configuration and supports long-term usability for clinicians.
- **Technology:** Evaluating hardware, equipment, and interfaces ahead of schedule ensures the technical infrastructure fully supports a seamless implementation.

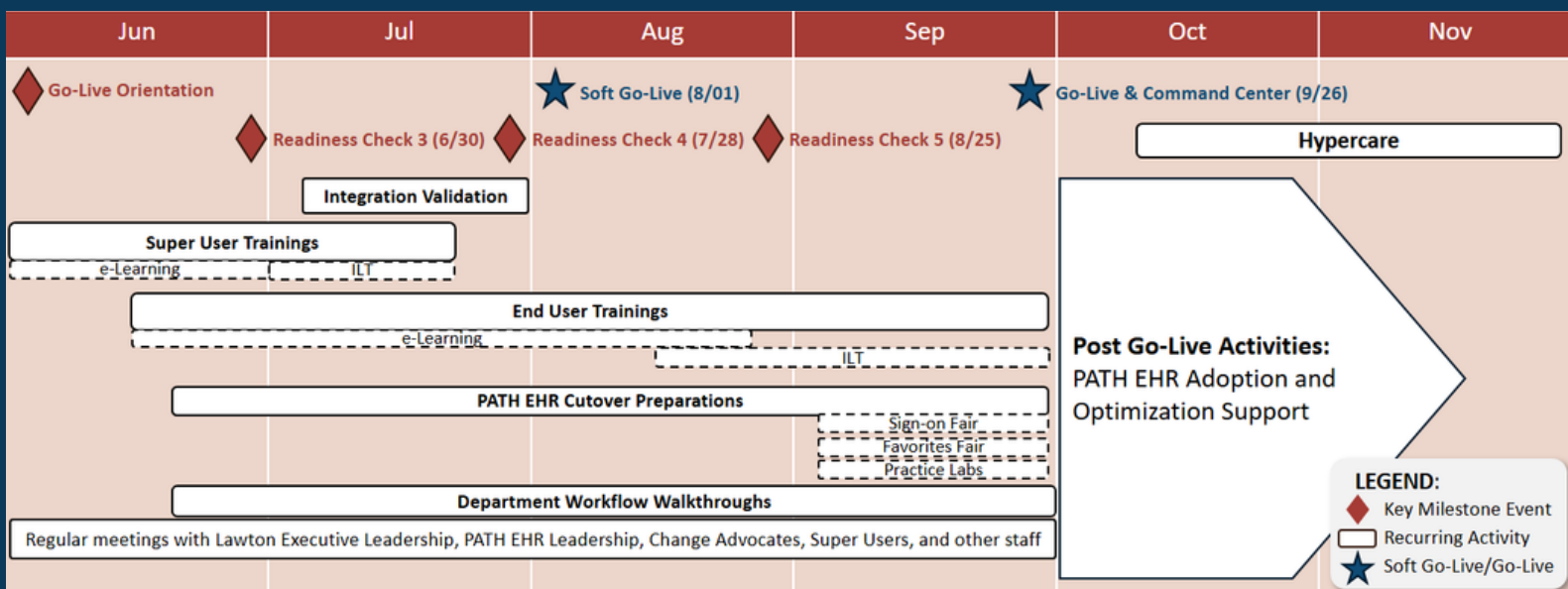


The Strategy Ahead: Impacts for Future Sites

The Lawton Service Unit deployment establishes a repeatable model for PATH EHR implementation across future sites. Upcoming sites will begin with a tested roadmap rather than building implementation from the ground up, allowing them to focus their preparation time on local workflow differences and site-specific site configuration decisions.

LAWTON PATH EHR TIMELINE

The Lawton Service Unit deployment follows a two-phased implementation plan targeting a full system go-live in late September 2026. Activities throughout July focus on technical verification and staff training. In August, the Soft Go-Live phase allows trained personnel to begin key registration and scheduling tasks before the final transition. This phased implementation plan ensures that all clinical, technical, and administrative systems work reliably before the complete fall launch.



LAWTON DEPLOYMENT

Soft Go-Live Vs. Go-Live

Deployment at the Lawton Service Unit occurs in two distinct phases to establish a measured, safe, and stable transition to the PATH EHR system. This structured rollout allows teams to build operational momentum and validate system performance before the full transition.

Soft Go-Live (Early August 2026)

During this phase, specially trained staff will begin using the PATH EHR for targeted registration and scheduling tasks ahead of the full system launch. Dedicated on-site teams will focus on scheduling patient follow-up appointments for post-launch dates, while simultaneously validating and correcting migrated patient data to ensure seamless system readiness.

Go-Live (Late September 2026)

Patient care will transition completely from the legacy RPMS to PATH EHR, with all new patient encounters initiating directly within the new system. While full clinical workflows will be active in PATH EHR, legacy RPMS access will remain open on a limited basis, strictly to finalize historic referrals, outstanding laboratory entries, and pending billing claims.

Transition Insights: Preparing for Go-Live

Here is how teams are working together to manage the transition and support your daily operations:



Role-Based System Access: Defines user permissions within PATH EHR based strictly on job function. This approach strengthens data security and provides staff with the exact tools needed for their duties.



Targeted Role-Based Training: Sessions align instruction directly with unique staff workflows. Users receive specific training focused entirely on how they will use the platform for their precise roles.



Proactive Change Support: Interactive department sessions analyze Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) and PATH EHR workflows. These meetings highlight process adjustments, flag potential disruptions, and demonstrate new features to minimize transition challenges.



Cohesive Patient Communication: Indian Health Service (IHS) collaborates with local leaders and the pilot site community to prepare for the PATH EHR transition. Targeted outreach will inform patients, manage transition expectations, and help families navigate new digital tools.



Patient Data Migration: As IHS transitions from RPMS to PATH EHR, dedicated teams are testing streamlined processes to migrate essential clinical data. This operation maintains clinical continuity, patient safety, and federal data security standards.

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IHS MODERNIZATION WEBSITE

The Health IT Modernization Program site on IHS.gov complements the PATH EHR SharePoint site by providing access to general Program information, resources, and upcoming events for those external to IHS.

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