



MAY 14 2021

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

Last December and in January of this year, the Indian Health Service held a series of Listening Sessions related to modernizing our Health Information Technology (HIT) infrastructure through full replacement of the Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) Electronic Health Record (EHR). During and after those sessions, a number of you commented on investments that you have already made in commercial HIT solutions, and inquired about the potential for reimbursement of those costs.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, included language requiring the IHS *“to report back within 120 days of enactment of this Act with a list of Tribes that currently maintain their own non-RPMS EHR systems along with cost estimates required for those Tribes to implement, maintain, and make any necessary upgrades to these systems.”*

To help the IHS respond to this Congressional mandate and improve our understanding of Tribal and Urban Indian Organization investment in HIT, I am asking that you complete the enclosed EHR Data Call Template by June 4, 2021, and return it to ihsmodernization@mitre.org.

While the IHS recognizes there is no requirement for you to complete the data call, we hope you will contribute to our response. The information provided will not only allow us to meet the Congressional requirement, but also inform the overall HIT Modernization project by providing information on the experience of Tribes and Urban Indian Organizations with respect to EHR acquisitions and costs.

In completing the enclosed template, please note that we have asked for costs by fiscal year. If you find it easier to simply provide a total cost for your commercial off-the-shelf EHR systems to date, you are welcome to do so. Also, please confirm where asked on the template whether you authorize IHS to share your responses with Congress in an identifiable manner, or only as de-identified, aggregated data.

As the HIT Modernization effort continues to move forward, the IHS is committed to meaningful Tribal Consultation, Confer, and engagement in all steps of the process. We appreciate your time and attention to the HIT Modernization initiative.

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If you have questions or concerns about this information request, please contact Mr. Mitchell Thornbrugh, Chief Information Officer, IHS, by telephone at (240) 620-3117, or by e-mail at mitchell.thornbrugh@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

/Elizabeth A. Fowler/
Acting Director

Enclosure: IHS Congressional Tribal/UIO EHR Cost Data Call Template