

# THE IPO BRIDGE

June 2016



## Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of the Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Affairs (DoD/VA) Interagency Program Office (IPO) bulletin, *The IPO Bridge*, a quarterly publication aimed at keeping you informed of the exciting developments and challenges in health data standards. Inside this bulletin, you will find an overview of IPO's recent activities, milestones, and upcoming priorities as well as broader trends and best practices in health data interoperability. Above all, this bulletin reflects the continued mission of IPO to enhance DoD/VA interoperability efforts and ultimately improve healthcare for active Service Members, their families, and Veterans. Over the next several months, IPO will close FY16 with the Health Interoperability and Exchange Alliance (HIEA) Technical Forum, Executive Committee Briefing (EXCOM), and other events. If you have feedback or questions, please contact [dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil](mailto:dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil).

Respectfully,



Lauren C. Thompson, Ph.D.,  
Director, DoD/VA IPO



Brian P. Burns, Deputy Director,  
DoD/VA IPO

## HL7's FHIR – Improving Population Health

The Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) is an emerging standard developed by Health Level Seven International for electronic healthcare information exchange to promote enterprise data sharing. FHIR empowers healthcare organizations to make sophisticated and seamless population health management feasible for clinicians. The tool also has to offer users an interoperability approach based on electronic applications. With support from the Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology (ONC) and commercial industries, FHIR attracts private sector clients, such as the Cerner Corporation and Geisinger Health System. Each firm uses FHIR to create specialized applications to handle data and advance capabilities in population health management. Moving forward, these applications will analyze patient-generated health data and present users with facts on the management of chronic diseases and patient well-being. IPO continues to monitor the progress of FHIR and its potential impact on the DoD/VA. For more information on FHIR, please visit [www.hl7.org/fhir/](http://www.hl7.org/fhir/).



## IPO's Innovation & Engagement Division

### Constructing An Innovation Ecosystem

Recently, IPO's Innovation & Engagement Division constructed an "Innovation Ecosystem" to respond to the constant evolution of best practices and technological advances in healthcare interoperability. IPO intends to attract innovators to work on interoperability challenges between the DoD/VA and the private healthcare community. Based on IPO priorities, Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and support staff will use resources such as Predictive Analytics and Health Information Exchange to advance innovation efforts.

The team developed several priorities for FY17, including building relationships with innovators, promoting data sharing standards for medical devices, partnering with non-governmental



and academic organizations to further interoperability efforts, and supporting the Metrics & Analytics team, and DoD/VA on the development of Outcome-Oriented Metrics while facilitating Joint Venture Site engagements.

For more information about the Innovation Ecosystem, please contact [dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil](mailto:dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil).

## Farewell, Mr. Burns

Please join us in recognizing Mr. Brian P. Burns for his service and commitment to the success of the DoD/VA IPO. In 2014, Mr. Burns became IPO Deputy Director. At IPO, he provided strong leadership and went beyond the call of duty to improve healthcare standards and enhance interoperability between the Departments. His contributions were critical to the mission of IPO and will ensure a long-lasting legacy.

Mr. Burns has accepted the role of Deputy Chief Information Officer of the U.S. Coast Guard. In the interim, Mr. John Short, Program Executive, VistA Evolution Program Management Office (VE PMO), will serve as acting IPO Deputy Director.

IPO will remember his positive impact in the years to come. Let's thank Mr. Burns for his outstanding service and wish him good luck in his future endeavors.

## HIEA Promoting DoD/VA Information-Sharing

IPO's Health Interoperability and Exchange Alliance (HIEA) aims to promote information-sharing between the DoD/VA on Health Information Technology (HIT) initiatives, while providing opportunities for collaboration on standards, services, and policies for interoperability.

HIEA works with the DoD/VA and their partners to implement guidance, adopt industry best practices, and enable the identification of emerging technologies, through semi-annual Technical Forums, monthly Health IT & Data Standards (HIDS) Working Groups, Town Halls, and Joint Exploratory Teams (JETs). HIEA has completed one JET, while an additional four are in their final phase with outcomes and recommendations expected by the fourth quarter of FY16. In collaboration with ONC, the next HIEA Technical Forum will take place on August 17-18, focusing on "Information Modeling: Foundation to Semantic Interoperability."



# IPO Standards & Technology Division

## Empowering Global Health Interoperability

IPO's Standards & Technology (ST) Division is working with the DoD/VA to collaborate on ballot procedures from Health Level Seven International (HL7).



HL7 is a not-for-profit, American National Standards Institute (ANSI)-accredited organization that provides standards for the exchange, integration, and retrieval of electronic health information. With more than 1,600 members, including the DoD and VA, HL7 enables the implementation of interoperability standards through a ballot process, which allows users to vote on or recommend modifications of standards. The next ballot cycle will begin on August 12. IPO personnel joined more than 400 attendees on May 9-13 to participate in HL7's Working Group meeting in Montreal, Canada, which focused on HL7's most recently developed standard, Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR). For more information, please visit [www.HL7.org](http://www.HL7.org) or contact [dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil](mailto:dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil).

## 2016 ISA Released

The Interoperability Standards Advisory (ISA) process represents



the model by which the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) arranges interoperability standards and implementation specifications for industry use to fulfill specific clinical health IT interoperability needs. The 2016 ISA remains focused on clinical health IT interoperability and was published for public comment through March 21. To read the DoD/VA IPO and other stakeholders' public comments, please visit [www.healthit.gov/standards-advisory/2016](http://www.healthit.gov/standards-advisory/2016).

## Calendar of Events



### JUNE

- 22 DoD Industry Interoperability Roundtable
- 30 ATARC Federal Big Data Summit

### JULY

- 13 DoD/VA IPO Town Hall
- 14 FY16 Executive Committee Brief  
HIDS Working Group Meeting
- 21 FHA Metrics Summit
- 26 ATARC Federal Cloud Computing Summit

### AUGUST

- 2-4 DHITS Conference
- 10 DoD/VA IPO Town Hall
- 12 HL7 Balloting Begins
- 17-18 2016 HIEA Technical Forum
- 24 IPO Metrics Summit

# IPO Metric & Analytics Division

## Measuring Impact of Healthcare Interoperability



IPO's Metrics & Analytics (M&A) Division is prioritizing Outcome-Oriented Metrics to measure interoperability's impact on healthcare. In late May, the Division completed its draft of the Health Outcome-Oriented Metrics Roadmap, which examines IPO's phased approach to metrics development, governance, and implementation. M&A is also working to finalize a Metrics Work Group Charter to clarify the Work Group's evolving role and objectives. On May 25, the Division hosted its quarterly Metrics Summit to further discuss its milestones and engage in open dialogue with stakeholders. Moving forward, the Division will continue to develop metrics to measure progress to achieve interoperability; monitor industry best practices; engage with interoperability evaluation and research organizations; coordinate with the ONC on deliverables; and host monthly metrics development collaborations. The next Metrics Summit is tentatively scheduled for August 24. For more information, please contact [dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil](mailto:dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil).

## ONC's Request to Assess MACRA Interoperability Requirements

Authorized last year by President Obama, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) introduces new ways to pay doctors who treat Medicare patients while promoting quality care and clinical practice improvements. Section 106(b)(1) of the Act sets a nationwide goal to achieve widespread exchange of health information through interoperability-certified electronic health record technology. The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) has requested information on potential data sources and metrics to assess MACRA requirements and measure interoperability. In response, the Metrics & Analytics Division has worked with the Defense Health Agency over the third quarter of FY16 to compile feedback from DoD and VA stakeholders on MACRA. The Division is also awaiting future announcements on upcoming MACRA measurement activities. To read the full text of MACRA, please visit [www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2/text/pl](http://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2/text/pl).

# IPO Interagency Coordination Division

## Providing Data Quality Assurance

Since the beginning of FY16, the Interagency Coordination Division has processed and approved 36 departmental data maps. Additionally, the team has developed executive summaries for the three quarterly Plan of Action and Milestones submitted by the Veterans Health Administration. Since April 2015, IPO has reviewed, analyzed, and approved 80 data maps. The team is also updating the Charter and Standard Operating Procedures of the Interoperability



Standards and Documentation Change Control Board (ISDCCB) for FY16, with completion expected by August 2. For more information, please contact [dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil](mailto:dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil).

## Meet Our Staff – Mr. Poeu Kong



As a Metrics & Analytics Team Lead, Mr. Poeu Kong has demonstrated exemplary leadership through his timely delivery of services, strong work ethic, proven commitment to projects, and high quality of production. Given his efforts, Mr. Kong has become a highly respected and valuable "go to" person within IPO. Thank you, Mr. Kong, for your hard work.



If you would like to contribute to *The IPO Bridge*, please contact [dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil](mailto:dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil).