



Privacy Impact Assessment for the VA IT System called:

# Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) Mobile Application Platform (EMAP)

VA Central Offices (VACO) – Office of the  
Deputy Secretary of VA (DEPSECVA) -  
Electronic Health Record Modernization  
Integration Office (EHRM IO)

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*System Contacts*

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## Abstract

*The abstract provides the simplest explanation for “what does the system do?” and will be published online to accompany the PIA link.*

The Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) Mobile Application Platform (EMAP) is a computing platform consisting of Provider Mobile and Nursing Ancillary clinical mobile applications. These applications enable VA care providers, nursing staff, and ancillary personnel to access patient care data using purpose-built government furnished equipment (GFE) managed by VA Enterprise Mobility (EMM) solution. The advanced communication and information access level supported by these mobile applications are crucial to drive quality outcomes for Veteran healthcare.

## Overview

*The overview is the most important section of the PIA. A thorough and clear overview gives the reader the appropriate context to understand the responses in the PIA. The overview should contain the following elements:*

- *The IT system name and the name of the program office that owns the IT system.*
- *The business purpose of the program, IT system, or technology and how it relates to the program office and agency mission.*
- *Indicate the ownership or control of the IT system or project.*
- *The expected number of individuals whose information is stored in the system and a brief description of the typical client or affected individual.*
- *A general description of the information in the IT system and the purpose for collecting this information.*
- *Any information sharing conducted by the IT system. A general description of the modules and subsystems, where relevant, and their functions.*
- *Whether the system is operated in more than one site, and if so, a description of how use of the system and PII is maintained consistently in all sites and if the same controls are used across sites.*
- *A citation of the legal authority to operate the IT system.*
- *Whether the completion of this PIA will result in circumstances that require changes to business processes*
- *Whether the completion of this PIA could potentially result in technology changes*
- *If the system is in the process of being modified and a SORN exists, will the SORN require amendment or revision and approval? If the system is using cloud technology, does the SORN for the system cover cloud usage or storage?*

EHRM Mobile Application Platform (EMAP) is a mobile computing platform owned by the VA Electronic Health Record Modernization Integration Office (EHRM IO). EMAP consists of Provider Mobile and Nursing Ancillary clinical mobile applications. Users can access these applications from their government furnished equipment (GFE) to perform various activities such as viewing patient charts, viewing/cosigning orders, endorsing result, capturing images/charts by device camera, sending/receiving secure text messages and alert notification, secure Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) calling, etc. All of these clinical mobile apps are managed by Oracle Cerner, the same company that developed Millennium,

the new Electronic Health Record (EHR) system jointly owned by the Department of Defense (DOD), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and the United States Coast Guard (USCG).

The personally identifiable information (PII) and protected health information (PHI) elements displayed on these mobile apps are patient demographic information such as name, data of birth, gender identity, telephone number, mailing address, email address, Electronic Data Interchange Personal Identifier (EDIPI), VA Integration Control Number (ICN), current medications, certain patient care charts, notes, images, and orders.

The Provider mobile applications are an extension of the EHR PowerChart desktop applications that enable users to perform similar functions on the go. These commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) products have been approved for use and included in the VA Mobile Application Store (VAS). The Nursing Ancillary mobile applications are a suite of Cerner's health care communication platform enabling caregivers access to applications and workflows in the palm of their hand. This application suite allows care teams inside the hospital to exchange information securely through Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) calling, secure text and alert notifications, intelligent user directory, and applications executing clinical and environmental workflows leveraging an approved purpose-built mobile device.

EMAP does not use cloud technology. EMAP leverages certain security controls provided by the Enterprise Mobility Management (EMM) system for device and mobile application configuration management. The platform is considered an enterprise system that will be gradually deployed in all VA Medical Centers across the U.S. The same security and privacy controls will be implemented and monitored across all sites, in accordance with applicable cybersecurity and data protection laws regulations for a U.S. federal information system.

The functions provided by the EMAP clinical mobile applications are similar with the desktop application ones. No change to EMAP business processes or technology is expected once this Privacy Impact Assessment is completed.

The authority to operate the system is stated in Title 38, United States Code, Sections 501(b) and 304. In compliance with the Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) of 2014, the system must receive a security authorization to operate, or an ATO, given by a senior VA authority official or an AO. In this management decision, acting on behalf of the VA, the AO would explicitly accept the risk to agency operations including mission, functions, image, or reputation, agency assets, individuals, etc. based on the implementation of an agreed-upon set of security and privacy controls defined by Directive 6500, VA Cybersecurity Program. The authority for the system to collect, use, and disseminate information about individuals that is maintained in systems of records by federal agencies, in accordance with the code of fair information practices established by the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, 5 U.S.C. § 552a, is stated in System of Record Notification (SORN) 24VA10A7,

Patient Medical Records-VA, the same SORN used by the Joint EHR system. No amendment or revision of the existing SORN is needed as part of EMAP deployment.

## Section 1. Characterization of the Information

The following questions are intended to define the scope of the information requested and collected as well as the reasons for its collection as part of the program, IT system, or technology being developed.

### 1.1 What information is collected, used, disseminated, created, or maintained in the system?

*Identify and list all Sensitive Personal Information (SPI) that is collected and stored in the system, including Individually Identifiable Information (III), Individually Identifiable Health Information (IIHI), Protected Health Information (PHI), and Privacy- Protected Information. For additional information on these information types and definitions, please see VA Directives and Handbooks in the 6500 series (<https://vawww.va.gov/vapubs/>). If the system creates information (for example, a score, analysis, or report), list the information the system is responsible for creating.*

*If a requesting system receives information from another system, such as a response to a background check, describe what information is returned to the requesting system. This question is related to privacy control AP-1, Authority To Collect, and AP-2, Purpose Specification.*

*The information selected below must match the information provided in question 2.1 as well as the data elements columns in 4.1 and 5.1.*

Please check any information listed below that your system collects, uses, disseminates, creates, or maintains. If additional SPI is collected, used, disseminated, created, or maintained, please list those in the text box below:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Name  | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Insurance Beneficiary Numbers   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integration Control Number (ICN)                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security Number   | Account numbers   | <input type="checkbox"/> Military History/Service Connection                          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date of Birth   | <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate/License numbers            | <input type="checkbox"/> Next of Kin  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mother's Maiden Name   | <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle License Plate Number           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Unique Identifying Information (list below) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal Mailing Address  | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet Protocol (IP) Address Numbers |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal Phone Number(s)  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current Medications         |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Fax Number  | <input type="checkbox"/> Previous Medical Records               |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal Email Address  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Race/Ethnicity              |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Contact Information (Name, Phone Number, etc. of a different individual) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tax Identification Number              |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Account Information  | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Record Number                  |   |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender                      |   |

Electronic Data Interchange Personal Identifier (EDIPI), VA personal identity verification (PIV) card identification number, patient clinical notes and images.

**PII Mapping of Components**

EMAP clinical mobile applications connect to the EHR databases (CareAware Connect, CareAware MultiMedia 7 Archive) located in the Federal Enclave and the EMM. No PII/PHI is stored in the mobile apps installed in the VA GFE.

**PII Mapped to Components**

*PII Mapped to Components*

<b>Database Name of the information system collecting/storing PII</b>	<b>Does this system collect PII? (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Does this system store PII? (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Type of PII (SSN, DOB, etc.)</b>	<b>Reason for Collection/Storage of PII</b>	<b>Safeguards</b>
Joint Electronic Health Record (EHR) – CareAware Connect, CareAware MultiMedia 7 Archive (CAMM 7)	Yes	Yes	Name, date of birth, gender identity, telephone number, mailing address, email address, EDIPI, ICN, current medications, clinical notes & images	Patient clinical care operation	Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) Virtual Private Network (VPN)
VA Enterprise Mobility Management (EMM)-VMWare Workspace ONE	Yes	Yes	Device and user level provisioning data, no PHI	Device and user authentication	SSL VPN

**1.2 What are the sources of the information in the system?**

*List the individual, entity, or entities providing the specific information identified above. For example, is the information collected directly from the individual as part of an application for a benefit, or is it collected from other sources such as commercial data aggregators?*

*Describe why information from sources other than the individual is required. For example, if a program’s system is using data from a commercial aggregator of information or data taken from public Web sites, state the fact that this is where the information is coming from and then in question 1.3 indicate why the system is using this source of data.*

*If the system creates information (for example, a score, analysis, or report), list the system as a source of information.*

*This question is related to privacy controls DI-1, Data Quality, and IP-1, Consent.*

The clinical mobile applications in EMAP do not collect information directly from individual patients. Instead, they receive patient information from the Joint EHR system resided in the Federal Enclave.

### **1.3 How is the information collected?**

*This question is directed at the means of collection from the sources listed in question 1.2. Information may be collected directly from an individual, received via electronic transmission from another system, or created by the system itself. Specifically, is information collected through technologies or other technology used in the storage or transmission of information in identifiable form?*

*If the information is collected on a form and is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act, give the form's OMB control number and the agency form number.*

*This question is related to privacy controls DI-1, Data Quality, and IP-1, Consent.*

The mobile applications in EMAP do not collect information directly from individual patients. Instead, they receive/collect patient information from the Joint EHR system. Information in the Joint-EHR is collected directly from patients, providers, and various outside sources using both paper-based and electronic methods, such as the enrollment form for VA health care (paper-based), interviews and assessments with the individual, secure web portals, virtual private network (VPN) connection, e-mail and facsimile, through various sources such as the DoD, VA Benefit Administration (VBA), Social Security Administration (SSA), and Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

### **1.4 How will the information be checked for accuracy? How often will it be checked?**

*Discuss whether and how often information stored in the system is checked for accuracy. Is information in the system checked against any other source of information (within or outside your organization) before the information is used to make decisions about an individual? For example, is there a computer matching agreement in place with another government agency? For systems that receive data from internal data sources or VA IT systems, describe the system checks to ensure that data corruption has not occurred during transmission.*

*If the system checks for accuracy by accessing a commercial aggregator of information, describe this process and the levels of accuracy required by the contract.*

*This question is related to privacy controls DI-1, Data Quality, and DI-2, Data Integrity and Integrity Board.*

The mobile applications of EMAP are user interfacing tools and they do not provide accuracy check mechanism. Instead, the Joint EHR servers in the Federal Enclave will check and match data based

on patient/user identify. Indirectly, application/user layer of security is managed by Cerner Central console, which generates access codes to point a device to the correct domain.

### **1.5 What specific legal authorities, arrangements, and agreements defined the collection of information?**

*List the full legal authority for operating the system, specifically the authority to collect the information listed in question 1.1. Provide the authorities in a manner understandable to any potential reader, i.e., do not simply provide a legal citation; use statute names or regulations in addition to citations. Legal authorities include Federal laws, regulations, statutes, and Executive Orders.*

*This question is related to privacy control AP-1, Authority to Collect*

The authority to operate the system is stated in Title 38, United States Code, Sections 501(b) and 304. The authority for the system to collect, use, and disseminate information about individuals that is maintained in systems of records by federal agencies, in accordance with the code of fair information practices established by the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, 5 U.S.C. § 552a, is stated in SORN 24VA10A7, Patient Medical Records-VA ([https://www.oprm.va.gov/privacy/systems\\_of\\_records.aspx](https://www.oprm.va.gov/privacy/systems_of_records.aspx))

### **1.6 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Characterization of the information**

*Consider the specific data elements collected and discuss the potential privacy risks and what steps, if any are currently being taken to mitigate those identified risks.*

*Consider the following Fair Information Practice Principles (FIPPs) when assessing the risk to individual privacy:*

*Principle of Purpose Specification: Explain how the collection ties with the purpose of the underlying mission of the organization and its enabling authority.*

*Principle of Minimization: Is the information directly relevant and necessary to accomplish the specific purposes of the program?*

*Principle of Individual Participation: Does the program, to the extent possible and practical, collect information directly from the individual?*

*Principle of Data Quality and Integrity: Are there policies and procedures for VA to ensure that personally identifiable information is accurate, complete, and current?*

*This question is related to privacy control AR-1, Governance and Privacy Program, and AR-2, Privacy Impact and Risk Assessment.*

**Privacy Risk:** There's risk that a user (provider or nurse) may send a captured image/chart to the wrong patient record.

**Mitigation:** Users are required to complete operational training for the applicable EMAP clinical mobile applications, beside the mandated annual cybersecurity and HIPAA privacy awareness

training courses. Users must follow clinical/ancillary workflows to ensure patient identity associated with the image/chart is accurately verified and matched. The combination of Awareness Training (AT) security controls with operational/functional training courses helps mitigate data privacy risk related to data quality and integrity principle.

## Section 2. Uses of the Information

The following questions are intended to clearly delineate the use of information and the accuracy of the data being used.

### 2.1 Describe how the information in the system will be used in support of the program's business purpose.

*Identify and list each use (both internal and external to VA) of the information collected or maintained.*

*This question is related to privacy control AP-2, Purpose Specification.*

- Name is used for patient identity and user identity
- Date of birth is used for patient identity
- Gender identity is used for patient care identity and treatment
- Race/ethnicity is used for patient identity
- Telephone number is used in certain mobile apps to verify patient identity and communication
- Mailing address is used for patient identity and communication
- Email address is used for patient identity and communication
- EDIPI is the prime identifier and used for patient identity and user authentication
- The VA Integration Control Number (ICN) is the historical medical record number and used in the Joint EHR system for patient identity, record reference and look-up purposes
- Current medication data is used for patient care purpose
- Patient clinical notes and/or images are displayed by certain mobile apps to assist the care provider and nurses in monitoring patient care progress.

### 2.2 What types of tools are used to analyze data and what type of data may be produced?

*Many systems sift through large amounts of information in response to a user inquiry or programmed functions. Systems may help identify areas that were previously not obvious and need additional research by agents, analysts, or other employees. Some systems perform complex analytical tasks resulting in, among other types of data, matching, relational analysis, scoring, reporting, or pattern analysis. Describe any type of analysis the system conducts and the data that is created from the analysis.*

*If the system creates or makes available new or previously unutilized information about an individual, explain what will be done with the newly derived information. Will it be placed in the individual's existing record? Will a new record be created? Will any action be taken against or for the individual identified because of the newly derived data? If a new record is created, will the newly*



*created information be accessible to Government employees who make determinations about the individual? If so, explain fully under which circumstances and by whom that information will be used.*

*This question is related to privacy controls DI-1, Data Quality, DI-2, Data Integrity and Integrity Board, and SE-1, Inventory of Personally Identifiable Information*

No tool is used by the mobile apps to analyze or produce data.

### **2.3 How is the information in the system secured?**

*2.3a What measures are in place to protect data in transit and at rest?*

*2.3b If the system is collecting, processing, or retaining Social Security Numbers, are there additional protections in place to protect SSNs?*

*2.3c How is PII/PHI safeguarded in accordance with OMB Memorandum M-06-15?*

*This question is related to security and privacy controls SC-9, Transmission Confidentiality, and SC-28, Protection of Information at Rest*

Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS) Transport Layer Security (TLS) 1.2, is used to protect data in transit. Since no patient/user PII/PHI is stored in the mobile applications as well as mobile devices, data at rest protection mechanism is not considered.

### **2.4 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Use of the information. How is access to the PII determined? Are criteria, procedures, controls, and responsibilities regarding access documented? Does access require manager approval? Is access to the PII being monitored, tracked, or recorded? Who is responsible for assuring safeguards for the PII?**

*Describe any types of controls that may be in place to ensure that information is handled in accordance with the uses described above. Example: Describe if training for users of the project covers how to appropriately use information. Describe the disciplinary programs or system controls (i.e. denial of access) that are in place if an individual is inappropriately using the information.*

*Consider the following FIPPs below to assist in providing a response:*

*Principle of Transparency: Is the PIA and SORN, if applicable, clear about the uses of the information?*

*Principle of Use Limitation: Is the use of information contained in the system relevant to the mission of the project?*

*This question is related to privacy control AR-4, Privacy Monitoring and Auditing, AR-5, Privacy Awareness and Training, and SE-2, Privacy Incident response.*

In order to access EMAP mobile applications, each user must first have VA credential (PIV card) and also must be granted access to the Joint EHR system, based on the Need-to-Know principle. As part of FISMA compliance, relevant access controls, identification and authentication

controls, personnel security controls have been designed and implemented for both the GFE mobile device and the mobile applications.

### **Section 3. Retention of Information**

The following questions are intended to outline how long information will be retained after the initial collection.

#### **3.1 What information is retained?**

*Identify and list all information collected from question 1.1 that is retained by the system. This question is related to privacy controls DM-1, Minimization of Personally Identifiable Information, and DM-2, Data Retention and Disposal*

No record with the collected data elements as identified in question 1.1. is retained by the EMAP mobile apps since they are simply user interfacing tools. Mobile applications do not store application data or user session data. Shared application functionality, such as Connect Messenger and Connect Voice, do not write data to the mobile devices for sharing.

#### **3.2 How long is information retained?**

*In some cases VA may choose to retain files in active status and archive them after a certain period of time. State active file retention periods, as well as archived records, in number of years, for the information and record types. For example, financial data held within your system may have a different retention period than medical records or education records held within your system, please be sure to list each of these retention periods. If the system is using cloud technology, will it be following the NARA approved retention length and schedule?*

*The VA records officer should be consulted early in the development process to ensure that appropriate retention and destruction schedules are implemented. This question is related to privacy control DM-2, Data Retention and Disposal.*

No record with the collected data elements as identified in question 1.1. is retained by the EMAP mobile apps since they are simply user interfacing tools. Mobile applications do not store application data or user session data. Shared application functionality, such as Connect Messenger and Connect Voice, do not write data to the mobile devices for sharing.

#### **3.3 Has the retention schedule been approved by the VA records office and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)? If so please indicate the name of the records retention schedule.**

*An approved records schedule must be obtained for any IT system that allows the retrieval of a record via a personal identifier. The VA records officer will assist in providing a proposed schedule.*

*The schedule must be formally offered to NARA for official approval. Once NARA approves the proposed schedule, the VA records officer will notify the system owner.  
This question is related to privacy control DM-2, Data Retention and Disposal.*

No record with the collected data elements as identified in question 1.1. is retained by the EMAP mobile apps since they are simply user interfacing tools. Mobile applications do not store application data or user session data. Shared application functionality, such as Connect Messenger and Connect Voice, do not write data to the mobile devices for sharing.

EMM follows instructions provided by VHA RCS 10-1 item number 1004.1, Tracking and Control Records, page 14 (<https://www.va.gov/vhapublications/rcs10/rcs10-1.pdf>)

### **3.4 What are the procedures for the elimination of SPI?**

*Explain how records are destroyed or eliminated at the end of the retention period. Please give the details of the process. For example, are paper records shredded on site, or by a shredding company and accompanied by a certificate of destruction, etc?*

*This question is related to privacy control DM-2, Data Retention and Disposal*

EMAP mobile applications are user interface tools and do not store/retain sensitive personal information (SPI). VA Office of Information and Technology (OI&T) electronic media sanitization procedures will be used by EMM for the mobile applications and device at the end of the system life cycle.

### **3.5 Does the system, where feasible, use techniques to minimize the risk to privacy by using PII for research, testing, or training?**

*Organizations often use PII for testing new applications or information systems prior to deployment. Organizations also use PII for research purposes and for training. These uses of PII increase the risks associated with the unauthorized disclosure or misuse of the information. Please explain what controls have been implemented to protect PII used for testing, training and research. Have policies and procedures been developed to minimize the use of PII for testing, training, and research?*

*This question is related to privacy control DM-3, Minimization of PII Used in Testing, Training and Research*

EMAP does not use data for research, testing or training

### **3.6 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Retention of information**

*Discuss the risks associated with the length of time data is retained and what steps, if any, are currently being taken to mitigate those identified risks.*

*While we understand that establishing retention periods for records is a formal process, there are policy considerations behind how long a project keeps information. The longer a project retains information, the longer it needs to secure the information and assure its accuracy and integrity. The proposed schedule should match the requirements of the Privacy Act to keep the minimum amount of*

Version Date: October 1, 2021

**Page 11 of 28**

*PII for the minimum amount of time, while meeting the Federal Records Act. The schedule should align with the stated purpose and mission of the system.*

*Consider the following FIPPs below to assist in providing a response:*

*Principle of Minimization: Does the project retain only the information necessary for its purpose? Is the PII retained only for as long as necessary and relevant to fulfill the specified purposes?*

*Principle of Data Quality and Integrity: Has the PIA described policies and procedures for how PII that is no longer relevant and necessary is purged?*

*This question is related to privacy controls DM-1, Minimization of Personally Identifiable Information, and DM-2, Data Retention and Disposal.*

**Privacy Risk:** A risk may arise when a mobile application screen showing patient data is left open and unattended which may expose patient records to unauthorized viewers.

**Mitigation:** Auto screen-lock and session time-out access control, by design, are implemented to close out inactive sessions on mobile device after a pre-defined period of time in accordance with NIST SP 800-53 Rev 4 recommendations and VA Directive 6500 mandate.

## **Section 4. Internal Sharing/Receiving/Transmitting and Disclosure**

The following questions are intended to define the scope of information sharing/receiving/transmitting within VA.

**4.1 With which internal organizations is information shared/received/transmitted? What information is shared/received/transmitted, and for what purpose? How is the information transmitted?**

**NOTE: Question 3.9 (second table) on Privacy Threshold Analysis should be used to answer this question.**

*Identify and list the names of any program offices, contractor-supported IT systems, and any other organization or IT system within VA with which information is shared.*

*State the purpose for the internal sharing. If you have specific authority to share the information, provide a citation to the authority.*

*For each interface with a system outside your program office, state what specific data elements (PII/PHI) are shared with the specific program office, contractor-supported IT system, and any other organization or IT system within VA.*

*Describe how the information is transmitted. For example, is the information transmitted electronically, by paper, or by some other means? Is the information shared in bulk, on a case-by-case basis, or does the sharing partner have direct access to the information?*

*This question is related to privacy controls AP-2, Purpose Specification, AR-3, Privacy Requirements for Contractors and Service Providers, AR-8, Accounting of Disclosures, TR-1, Privacy Notice, and UL-1, Internal Use.*

*Data Shared with Internal Organizations*

<b>List the Program Office or IT System information is shared/received with</b>	<b>List the purpose of the information being shared /received with the specified program office or IT system</b>	<b>List the specific PII/PHI data elements that are processed (shared/received/transmitted) with the Program Office or IT system</b>	<b>Describe the method of transmittal</b>
EHRM CareAware Appliance	Medical care treatment (Android-based Nursing & Ancillary mobile apps)	Name, date of birth, gender identity, race/ethnicity, telephone number, mailing address, email address, EDIPI, ICN, current medications, patient clinical notes & images	Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS), Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) encrypted using Transport Layer Security (TLS)
VA OI&T/EMM	Authenticate VA GFE	Device and user level provisioning data (VA employee EDIPI, PIV card ID), no PHI	HTTPS/TCP

**4.2 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Internal sharing and disclosure**

*Discuss the privacy risks associated with the sharing of information within the Department and what steps, if any, are currently being taken to mitigate those identified risks.*

*This question is related to privacy control UL-1, Internal Use.*

**Privacy Risk:** Patient care data displayed on the GFE screen and viewed by un-authorized people; clinical notes created on the GFE and sent back to the centralized patient record in the Joint EHR may not be generated by the authorized care provider.

**Mitigation:** To ensure PII/PHI displayed and/or care notes created by only the authorized care provider/GFE owner, a combination of security controls such as security awareness and training, access control to automatically terminate mobile app session and device access, etc. have been implemented and validated.

**Section 5. External Sharing/Receiving and Disclosure**

The following questions are intended to define the content, scope, and authority for information sharing external to VA, which includes Federal, State, and local governments, and the private sector.

Version Date: October 1, 2021

**5.1 With which external organizations (outside VA) is information shared/received? What information is shared/received, and for what purpose? How is the information transmitted and what measures are taken to ensure it is secure?**

**Is the sharing of information outside the agency compatible with the original collection? If so, is it covered by an appropriate routine use in a SORN? If not, please describe under what legal mechanism the IT system is allowed to share the information in identifiable form or personally identifiable information outside of VA.**

**NOTE: Question 3.10 on Privacy Threshold Analysis should be used to answer this question.**

*Identify and list the names of any Federal, State, or local government agency or private sector organization with which information is shared.*

*For each interface with a system outside VA, state what specific data elements (PII/PHI) are shared with each specific partner.*

*What legal mechanisms, authoritative agreements, documentation, or policies are in place detailing the extent of the sharing and the duties of each party? For example, is the sharing of data compatible with your SORN? Then list the SORN and the applicable routine use from the SORN. Is there a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Computer Matching Agreement (CMA), or law that mandates the sharing of this information?*

*Describe how the information is transmitted to entities external to VA and what security measures have been taken to protect it during transmission.*

*This question is related to privacy control UL-2, Information Sharing with Third Parties*

*Data Shared with External Organizations*

<i>List External Program Office or IT System information is shared/received with</i>	<i>List the purpose of information being shared / received / transmitted with the specified program office or IT system</i>	<i>List the specific PII/PHI data elements that are processed (shared/ received/ transmitted) with the Program or IT system</i>	<i>List the legal authority, binding agreement, SORN routine use, etc. that permit external sharing (can be more than one)</i>	<i>List the method of transmission and the measures in place to secure data</i>
Defense Health Agency (DHA)/Joint EHR/CareAware Connect and/or CareAware MultiMedia 7	Healthcare treatment operations	Name, date of birth, gender identity, race/ethnicity, telephone number, mailing address, email address, EDIPI, ICN, current medications, patient clinical notes & images	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Department of Defense (DoD) and VA for Sharing Personal	Transport Layer Security (TLS)

Archive (CAMM 7)			Information, March 2014	
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## **5.2 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: External sharing and disclosure**

*Discuss the privacy risks associated with the sharing of information outside the Department and what steps, if any, are currently being taken to mitigate those identified risks.*

*Discuss whether access controls have been implemented and whether audit logs are regularly reviewed to ensure appropriate sharing outside of the Department. For example, is there a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU), contract, or agreement in place with outside agencies or foreign governments.*

*Discuss how the sharing of information outside of the Department is compatible with the stated purpose and use of the original collection.*

*This question is related to privacy control AR-2, Privacy Impact and Risk Assessment, AR-3, Privacy Requirements for Contractors and Service Providers, and AR-4, Privacy Monitoring and Auditing*

**Privacy Risk:** VA patient records retrieved/collected by the EMAP mobile apps are stored in the Joint EHR system/Federal Enclave, a cybersecurity boundary authorized and managed by DOD/DHA, an external Federal agency, may be exposed to certain privacy risks such as unauthorized access or being used for purposes other than the stated purpose and use of the original collection.

**Mitigation:** Beside the 2014 MOU on Data Sharing Agreement, the two agencies have entered in other inter-agency cybersecurity agreements such as the 2018 MOU for Authority to Operate (ATO) Reciprocity, the 2019 MOU for Implementation of the Medical Community of Interest (Med-COI) Network, the 2020 Interconnection Security Agreement (ISA) between DHA and VA OI&T concerning the Enclave supporting the EHRM Programs. These binding agreements have laid out foundation for implementing cybersecurity and privacy controls such as access controls, audit controls, privacy threshold analysis and privacy impact assessment, privacy monitoring and auditing, to safeguard patient data collected by the Joint EHR system, in accordance with the FISMA of 2014 Act, HIPAA Act, HITECH Act, and VA Directive 6500.

## **Section 6. Notice**

The following questions are directed at providing notice to the individual of the scope of information collected, the right to consent to uses of the information, and the right to decline to provide information.

**6.1 Was notice provided to the individual before collection of the information? If yes, please provide a copy of the notice as an appendix. (A notice may include a posted privacy policy, a Privacy Act notice on forms, or a system of records notice published in the Federal Register.) If notice was not provided, why not?**



*This question is directed at the notice provided before collection of the information. This refers to whether the person is aware that his or her information is going to be collected. A notice may include a posted privacy policy, a Privacy Act statement on forms, or a SORN published in the Federal Register. If notice was provided in the Federal Register, provide the citation.*

*If notice was not provided, explain why. If it was provided, attach a copy of the current notice.*

*Describe how the notice provided for the collection of information is adequate to inform those affected by the system that their information has been collected and is being used appropriately. Provide information on any notice provided on forms or on Web sites associated with the collection. This question is related to privacy control TR-1, Privacy Notice, and TR-2, System of Records Notices and Privacy Act Statements, and TR-3, Dissemination of Privacy Program Information.*

The EMAP mobile apps do not collect PII/PHI directly from individual patients. They receive or “collect” information via electronic transmission from components of the Joint EHR system such as CareAware Connect or CareAware MultiMedia Archive (CAMM 7). See SORN 24VA10A7, Patient Medical Records-VA ([https://www.oprm.va.gov/privacy/systems\\_of\\_records.aspx](https://www.oprm.va.gov/privacy/systems_of_records.aspx)). Also the VHA Notice of Privacy Practices (NOPP) <http://www.va.gov/health/> is provided to a patient in person for services and can be mailed to eligible Veterans every 3 years.

## **6.2 Do individuals have the opportunity and right to decline to provide information? If so, is a penalty or denial of service attached?**

*This question is directed at whether the person from or about whom information is collected can decline to provide the information and if so, whether a penalty or denial of service is attached. This question is related to privacy control IP-1, Consent, IP-2, Individual Access, and IP-3, Redress*

The EMAP mobile apps do not collect PII/PHI directly from individual patients. Instead, they receive or “collect” information via electronic transmission from components of the Joint EHR system located in the Federal Enclave. Individuals do have the opportunity and right to decline to provide information as having described in SORN 24VA10A7, Patient Medical Records-VA, VHA Handbook 1605.04, Notice of Privacy Practices (NOPP). The latest publication of the VHA NOPP can be found at this link (<http://www.va.gov/health/>) A copy of the NOPP must be provided to a patient/Veteran in person when they present for services. Alternatively, a copy of the revised/latest NOPP will be mailed to eligible veterans every 3 years by the VHA.

## **6.3 Do individuals have the right to consent to particular uses of the information? If so, how does the individual exercise the right?**

*This question is directed at whether an individual may provide consent for specific uses or the consent is given to cover all uses (current or potential) of his or her information. If specific consent is required, how would the individual consent to each use? This question is related to privacy control IP-1, Consent*



The EMAP mobile apps do not collect PII/PHI directly from individual patients. Instead, they receive or “collect” information via electronic transmission from components of the Joint EHR system located in the Federal Enclave. Individuals do have the right to consent to particular uses of the information as having described in SORN 24VA10A7, Patient Medical Records-VA, VHA Handbook 1605.04, Notice of Privacy Practices (NOPP). The latest publication of the VHA NOPP can be found at this link (<http://www.va.gov/health/>) A copy of the NOPP must be provided to a patient/Veteran in person when they present for services. Alternatively, a copy of the revised/latest NOPP will be mailed to eligible veterans every 3 years by the VHA.

#### **6.4 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Notice**

*Describe the potential risks associated with potentially insufficient notice and what steps, if any, are currently being taken to mitigate those identified risks.*

*Consider the following FIPPs below to assist in providing a response:*

*Principle of Transparency: Has sufficient notice been provided to the individual?*

*Principle of Use Limitation: Is the information used only for the purpose for which notice was provided either directly to the individual or through a public notice? What procedures are in place to ensure that information is used only for the purpose articulated in the notice?*

*This question is related to privacy control TR-1, Privacy Notice, AR-2, Privacy Impact and Risk Assessment, and UL-1, Internal Use*

**Privacy Risk:** An individual may not receive notice that their information is being collected, maintained, processed, or disseminated by the VA prior to providing the information.

**Mitigation:** This risk is mitigated by the common practice of providing the VHA Notice of Privacy Practice (NOPP) when Veterans present for service. New NOPPs are mailed to the patients/Veterans every 3 years and periodic monitoring is performed to check that the acknowledgment form signed by patients have been scanned into electronic records. Additional mitigation is provided by making the System of Record Notices (SORNs) and NOPP available for review online ([https://www.oprm.va.gov/privacy/systems\\_of\\_records.aspx](https://www.oprm.va.gov/privacy/systems_of_records.aspx)) (<http://www.va.gov/health/>)

## **Section 7. Access, Redress, and Correction**

The following questions are directed at an individual’s ability to ensure the accuracy of the information collected about him or her.

### **7.1 What are the procedures that allow individuals to gain access to their information?**

*Cite any procedures or regulations your program has in place that allow access to information. These procedures, at a minimum, should include the agency’s FOIA/Privacy Act practices, but may also include additional access provisions. For example, if your program has a customer satisfaction unit, that information, along with phone and email contact information, should be listed in this section in addition to the agency’s procedures. See 5 CFR 294 and the VA FOIA Web page at*

*http://www.foia.va.gov/ to obtain information about FOIA points of contact and information about agency FOIA processes.*

*If the system is exempt from the access provisions of the Privacy Act, please explain the basis for the exemption or cite the source where this explanation may be found, for example, a Final Rule published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).*

*If the system is not a Privacy Act system, please explain what procedures and regulations are in place that covers an individual gaining access to his or her information. This question is related to privacy control IP-2, Individual Access, and AR-8, Accounting of Disclosures.*

The mobile apps in the EMAP do not collect PII/PHI directly from individual patients. Instead, they receive or “collect” information by means of interfacing with the Joint EHR system. Reference the Joint EHR PIA or VHA Notice of Privacy Practice at this link <http://www.va.gov/health/>

When requesting access to one’s own records, patients are asked to complete VA Form 10-5345a: *Individuals’ Request for a Copy of their Own Health Information*, which can be obtained from the medical center or online at <https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-10-5345a>

Additionally, veterans and their dependents can gain access to their Electronic Health Record (EHR) by enrolling in the myHealthvet program, VA’s online personal health record. More information about myHealthvet is available at <https://www.myhealth.va.gov/index.html>

## **7.2 What are the procedures for correcting inaccurate or erroneous information?**

*Describe the procedures and provide contact information for the appropriate person to whom such issues should be addressed. If the correction procedures are the same as those given in question 7.1, state as much.*

*This question is related to privacy control IP-3, Redress, and IP-4, Complaint Management.*

For the latest version of the VHA Privacy Practices, check the VHA Privacy Office web portal <https://www.va.gov/health/> then click on VA Privacy Practices under the “Resources” section to the right of the page.

## **7.3 How are individuals notified of the procedures for correcting their information?**

*How are individuals made aware of the procedures for correcting his or her information? This may be through notice at collection or other similar means. This question is meant to address the risk that even if procedures exist to correct information, if an individual is not made fully aware of the existence of those procedures, then the benefits of the procedures are significantly weakened. This question is related to privacy control IP-3, Redress, and IP-4, Complaint Management.*

According to section “Right to Request Amendment of Health Information” under VHA NOPP, the individuals must submit request in writing, specify the information that they want corrected, and provide a reason to support their request for amendment. All amendment requests should be submitted to the facility Privacy Officer at the VHA health care facility that maintains the patient’s information or health records.

For the latest version of the VA Privacy Practices, check the VHA Privacy Office web portal <https://www.va.gov/health/> then click on VA Privacy Practices under the “Resources” section to the right of the page.

#### **7.4 If no formal redress is provided, what alternatives are available to the individual?**

*Redress is the process by which an individual gains access to his or her records and seeks corrections or amendments to those records. Redress may be provided through the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and also by other processes specific to a program, system, or group of systems.*

*This question is related to privacy control IP-3, Redress, and IP-4, Complaint Management.*

*Example: Some projects allow users to directly access and correct/update their information online. This helps ensure data accuracy.*

If an individual/patient’s request for amendment is denied, they will be notified of the decision in writing and given information about their right to appeal the decision. In response, the individual may do any of the following:

- File an appeal
- File a “Statement of Disagreement” which will be included in your health record
- Ask that your initial request for amendment accompany all future disclosures of the disputed health information

Reference “Right to Request Amendment of Health Information” under VHA Notice of Privacy Practices (NOPP) (<https://www.va.gov/health/>)

#### **7.5 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Access, redress, and correction**

*Discuss what risks there currently are related to the Department’s access, redress, and correction policies and procedures for this system and what, if any, steps have been taken to mitigate those risks. For example, if a project does not allow individual access, the risk of inaccurate data needs to be discussed in light of the purpose of the project. For example, providing access to ongoing law enforcement activities could negatively impact the program’s effectiveness because the individuals involved might change their behavior.*

*Consider the following FIPPs below to assist in providing a response:*

*Principle of Individual Participation:* *Is the individual provided with the ability to find out whether a project maintains a record relating to him?*

*Principle of Individual Participation: If access and/or correction is denied, then is the individual provided notice as to why the denial was made and how to challenge such a denial?*

*Principle of Individual Participation: Is there a mechanism by which an individual is able to prevent information about him obtained for one purpose from being used for other purposes without his knowledge?*

*This question is related to privacy control IP-3, Redress.*

**Privacy Risk:** Individuals whose records contain incorrect or out-of-date information may be exposed to the risk of not receiving prescription medications, notification of appointments, or test results timely. Certain incorrect information in a patient medical record could result in improper diagnosis and treatments.

**Mitigation:** Various accuracy checks are designed and implemented in different workflows of the Joint EHR system. VHA built-in procedure requires staff verify information in patient medical records and correct information identified as incorrect during each patient's medical appointments. Staff are informed of the importance of maintaining compliance with VA Request of Information policies and procedures and the importance of remaining alert to information correction requests.

Individual patients have the right to request an amendment (correction) to their health information in VHA records if they believe it is incomplete, inaccurate, untimely, or unrelated to your care. The individuals must submit request in writing, specify the information that they want corrected, and provide a reason to support their request for amendment. All amendment requests should be submitted to the facility Privacy Officer at the VHA health care facility that maintains the patient's information or health records. Reference "Right to Request Amendment of Health Information" under VHA Notice of Privacy Practices (NOPP) (<https://www.va.gov/health/>)

## **Section 8. Technical Access and Security**

The following questions are intended to describe technical safeguards and security measures.

### **8.1 What procedures are in place to determine which users may access the system, and are they documented?**

*Describe the process by which an individual receives access to the system.*

*Identify users from other agencies who may have access to the system and under what roles these individuals have access to the system. Who establishes the criteria for what PII can be shared?*

*Describe the different roles in general terms that have been created to provide access to the system. For example, certain users may have "read-only" access while others may be permitted to make certain amendments or changes to the information.*

*This question is related to privacy control AR-7, Privacy-Enhanced System Design and Development.*

The EMAP mobile apps are designed for only care providers, nursing staff and ancillary personnel to access using their government furnished equipment (GFE) in combination with their VA personal identity verification (PIV) ID. Application and user access security is managed by Cerner Central console, which generates access codes to point a device and user to the correct domain.

Access to a certain role in the Joint EHR system is determined by the user's manager/supervisor (accountable individual) and the Using Service for the purposes of performing official assigned duties. Access to an EHRM system is restricted to VA employees and contractors who must complete both the VA Privacy and Information Security Awareness and Rules of Behavior (ROB) course and the VHA Privacy and HIPAA Focused Training course. Specified access is granted based on the employee/contractor functional category. Role based training is required for individuals with significant information security responsibilities.

**8.2 Will VA contractors have access to the system and the PII? If yes, what involvement will contractors have with the design and maintenance of the system? Has a contractor confidentiality agreement, Business Associate Agreement (BAA), or a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) been developed for contractors who work on the system?**

*If so, how frequently are contracts reviewed and by whom? Describe the necessity of the access provided to contractors to the system and whether clearance is required. If Privacy Roles and Responsibilities have been established to restrict certain users to different access levels, please describe the roles and associated access levels. Explain the need for VA contractors to have access to the PII.*

*This question is related to privacy control AR-3, Privacy Requirements for Contractors and Service Providers.*

Certain contractor personnel who are admin users of the mobile apps can access the servers in the Federal Enclave for system maintenance and monitoring purposes. All contractor personnel must comply with VA cybersecurity and data safeguarding requirements, including contractor confidentiality agreement, Business Associate Agreement, and Non-Disclosure Agreement signed between Oracle Cerner Corporation/Cerner Government Services and the EHRM IO.

**8.3 Describe what privacy training is provided to users either generally or specifically relevant to the program or system?**

*VA offers privacy and security training. Each program or system may offer training specific to the program or system that touches on information handling procedures and sensitivity of information. Please describe how individuals who have access to PII are trained to handle it appropriately. This question is related to privacy control AR-5, Privacy Awareness and Training.*

Contractor personnel with access to VA information or information systems must read and acknowledge their receipt and acceptance of the VA National Rules of Behavior (ROB) or VA Contractor's ROB prior to gaining access to any VA information system or sensitive information. The rules are included as part of the VA Privacy and Security Awareness training which all personnel must complete via the VA's Talent Management System (TMS). After the user's initial

acceptance of the Rules, the user must re-affirm their acceptance annually as part of the privacy and security awareness training. Acceptance is obtained via electronic acknowledgment and is tracked through the TMS system. The following questions are directed at providing notice to the individual of the scope of information collected, the right to consent to uses of the information, and the right to decline to provide information. System administrators are required to complete additional role-based training. Users with access to PHI are required to complete HIPAA privacy training annually.

#### **8.4 Has Authorization and Accreditation (A&A) been completed for the system?**

*If Yes, provide:*

1. *The Security Plan Status,*
2. *The Security Plan Status Date,*
3. *The Authorization Status,*
4. *The Authorization Date,*
5. *The Authorization Termination Date,*
6. *The Risk Review Completion Date,*
7. *The FIPS 199 classification of the system (LOW/MODERATE/HIGH).*

*Please note that all systems containing SPI are categorized at a minimum level of “moderate” under Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 199.*

*If No or In Process, provide your **Initial Operating Capability (IOC) date.***

In Process. EHRM IO has been diligently working on the ATO package for EMAP and expects to submit a complete package to the VA Authorization Officer (AO) for review and approval before the end of FY22, i.e. September 30, 2022. Pending the completion of this PIA, a FIPS 199 workflow will be completed to determine the overall risk and impact level to the system, expected to be at a minimum level of “Moderate”. The selection of applicable security and privacy controls will follow, commensurate with the system security risk level. Security plan, Security Control and Risk Assessments, and other FISMA mandated security documents will be prepared and submitted in the ATO package.

## **Section 9 – Technology Usage**

The following questions are used to identify the technologies being used by the IT system or project.

### **9.1 Does the system use cloud technology? If so, what cloud model is being utilized?**

*If so, Does the system have a FedRAMP provisional or agency authorization? If the system does use cloud technology, but does not have FedRAMP authorization, explain how the Cloud Service Provider (CSP) solution was assessed and what FedRAMP documents and processes were used for the assessment in order to comply with VA Handbook 6517. Types of cloud models include: Software as a Service (SaaS), Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS), Commercial off the Shelf (COTS).*

*This question is related to privacy control UL-1, Information Sharing with Third Parties.*

*Note: For systems utilizing the VA Enterprise Cloud (VAEC), no further responses are required after 9.1.*

EMAP does not use cloud technology.

**9.2 Does the contract with the Cloud Service Provider, Contractors and VA customers establish who has ownership rights over data including PII? (Provide contract number and supporting information about PII/PHI from the contract)**

*This question is related to privacy control AR-3, Privacy Requirements for Contractors and Service Providers.*

EMAP does not use cloud technology.

**9.3 Will the CSP collect any ancillary data and if so, who has ownership over the ancillary data?**

*Per NIST 800-144, cloud providers hold significant details about the accounts of cloud consumers that could be compromised and used in subsequent attacks. Ancillary data also involves information the cloud provider collects or produces about customer-related activity in the cloud. It includes data collected to meter and charge for consumption of resources, logs and audit trails, and other such metadata that is generated and accumulated within the cloud environment.*

*This question is related to privacy control DI-1, Data Quality.*

EMAP does not use cloud technology.

**9.4 NIST 800-144 states, “Organizations are ultimately accountable for the security and privacy of data held by a cloud provider on their behalf.” Is this principle described in contracts with customers? Why or why not?**

*What are the roles and responsibilities involved between the organization and cloud provider, particularly with respect to managing risks and ensuring organizational requirements are met?*

*This question is related to privacy control AR-3, Privacy Requirements for Contractors and Service Providers.*

EMAP does not use cloud technology.

**9.5 If the system is utilizing Robotics Process Automation (RPA), please describe the role of the bots.**

*Robotic Process Automation is the use of software scripts to perform tasks as an automated process that executes in parallel with or in place of human input. For example, will the automation move or touch PII/PHI information. RPA may also be referred to as “Bots” or Artificial Intelligence (AI).*

EMAP does not utilize RPA.



## Section 10. References

### Summary of Privacy Controls by Family

*Summary of Privacy Controls by Family*

<b>ID</b>	<b>Privacy Controls</b>
<b>AP</b>	<b>Authority and Purpose</b>
AP-1	Authority to Collect
AP-2	Purpose Specification
<b>AR</b>	<b>Accountability, Audit, and Risk Management</b>
AR-1	Governance and Privacy Program
AR-2	Privacy Impact and Risk Assessment
AR-3	Privacy Requirements for Contractors and Service Providers
AR-4	Privacy Monitoring and Auditing
AR-5	Privacy Awareness and Training
AR-7	Privacy-Enhanced System Design and Development
AR-8	Accounting of Disclosures
<b>DI</b>	<b>Data Quality and Integrity</b>
DI-1	Data Quality
DI-2	Data Integrity and Data Integrity Board
<b>DM</b>	<b>Data Minimization and Retention</b>
DM-1	Minimization of Personally Identifiable Information
DM-2	Data Retention and Disposal
DM-3	Minimization of PII Used in Testing, Training, and Research
<b>IP</b>	<b>Individual Participation and Redress</b>
IP-1	Consent
IP-2	Individual Access
IP-3	Redress
IP-4	Complaint Management
<b>SE</b>	<b>Security</b>
SE-1	Inventory of Personally Identifiable Information
SE-2	Privacy Incident Response
<b>TR</b>	<b>Transparency</b>
TR-1	Privacy Notice
TR-2	System of Records Notices and Privacy Act Statements
TR-3	Dissemination of Privacy Program Information
<b>UL</b>	<b>Use Limitation</b>

<b>ID</b>	<b>Privacy Controls</b>
UL-1	Internal Use
UL-2	Information Sharing with Third Parties

**Signature of Responsible Officials**

**The individuals below attest that the information provided in this Privacy Impact Assessment is true and accurate.**

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**Privacy Officer, Tonya Facemire**

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**Information Systems Security Officer, Jeramy Drake**

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**Information Systems Owner, Michael Hartzell**

## APPENDIX A-6.1

Please provide a link to the notice or verbiage referred to in Section 6 (a notice may include a posted privacy policy, a Privacy Act notice on forms).

For the latest version of the VA Privacy Practices, check the VHA Privacy Office web portal <https://www.va.gov/health/> then click on VA Privacy Practices under the “Resources” section to the right of the page.

Description of the applicable System of Record Notice, SORN 24VA10A7, Patient Medical Records-VA, can be found at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-10-02/pdf/2020-21426.pdf>