



Department of  
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## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**VA Puget Sound Health Care System Launches  
Electronic Records Exchange**  
*Partnering with MultiCare Health System and Madigan Healthcare  
System to Enhance Patient Care*

SEATTLE – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced a new pilot site in the Puget Sound area to improve the delivery of services to Veterans.

“VA Puget Sound is committed to offering new technologies that enhance our ability to provide Veterans in the Puget Sound with high quality health care and services,” said David Elizalde, Director.

This pilot is part of the broader Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) initiative. VLER is a multi-faceted business and technology initiative that includes a portfolio of health, benefits, personnel, and administrative information sharing capabilities. VA Puget Sound will partner with MultiCare Health System and Madigan Healthcare System to exchange health information electronically for Veterans who participate in the pilot.

VA and the Department of Defense selected the Puget Sound area because it has a high concentration of Veterans, military retirees, and members of the Guard and Reserve.

Adding a Puget Sound health information exchange builds on the success of the VLER pilot in places like San Diego; Hampton Roads in Virginia; and Spokane, Wash. Participants exchange information using the Nationwide Health Information Network.

Veterans in the area were invited to participate in the health information exchange pilot, which will launch in late September.

- More -

**Electronic Records Exchange 2/2/2/2**

Veterans who choose to participate will authorize their public and private sector health care providers to share specific health information electronically, safely, securely, and privately. No exchange of information will occur without the permission of participating Veterans.

More detailed information on the pilot program is available by calling 1-877-771-VLER (8537).

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