VHA Innovation Program eBook
Quarterly Portfolio

Innovation Making a Difference

innovation

inspiration, incubation, illumination…

VHA Innovation Program Recent Highlights

Demo Day 2017
VA Innovation held its annual Demo Day in Washington, DC in August, with keynote speaker, VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. Six VHA Innovation products were presented during the event: REVAMP, Veteran "X", After Visit Summary, VA HearAssist, LEAF and ReachVet. The innovators for each of these efforts conducted a short demonstration of the product and invited questions from subject matter expert panel members. For more information on these products and Demo Day, visit the Innovators Network on VA Pulse.* *(A VA.gov email is required to access this site.)*

Maternity Tracker Development
Maternity Tracker is inching forward toward national availability. Maternity Tracker is a web-based tool is designed to interact with VA's electronic health record and the Women's Health Data Package to track educational items, phone calls, notes etc. that are required for pregnant Veterans. Additional enhancements are currently being developed, while training and a user toolkit are being drafted and created. If you are a Maternity Care Coordinator, follow the VHA Innovation Women's Health Initiatives VA Pulse page* to keep-up with the developments of Maternity Tracker. *(A VA.gov email is required to access this site.)*

After Visit Summary Expansion
Did you know that more than 30 VHA Innovation products are in use nationally? One of those products is the After Visit Summary (AVS). AVS is a is a patient-friendly document generated from VistA/CPRS, the VA's electronic health record system to help Veterans remember important clinical information. In fact, AVS is currently in operation at 70 VA medical centers and preparing for enterprise implementation with the Office of Information Technology.

VHA Innovation Staff Recognized
VHA Innovation held its first ever strategic team meeting in September. At this event, five VHA Innovation staff members were recognized for their unique contribution to the organization over the last year. Congratulations to Angie Barnes, Blake Henderson, Joshua Patterson, Brian Stevenson, and Allison Amrhein for an extraordinary job well done!
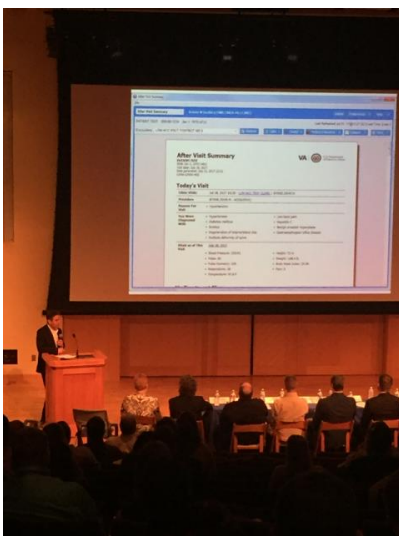
AVS presentation at Demo Day

Innovation Team Meeting

Innovation Making a Difference

Innovation is defined as "a new idea, or more-effective device or process." The innovation process can be described as the application of improved solutions to meet new requirements, unarticulated needs or existing market needs. But is it accurate then to say that every VHA Innovation product developed, makes a difference? Although some innovative products may improve solutions, impact a system, or meet a new need, others truly *make a difference*. This quarter, the eBook highlights the use of the VHA Innovation product, LEAF*, following Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. These catastrophic events paved the way for innovation to genuinely *make a difference*.
(A VA.gov email is required to access the LEAF Pulse site.)

LEAF (Light Electronic Action Framework) is a VA-developed web application that helps VA facilities rapidly digitize existing processes. While its main function is to digitally streamline day-to-day processes, such as travel and tuition reimbursement, LEAF has also served as an essential tool for VA telehealth in the wake of the recent natural disasters.

LEAF has a specially designed interface that matches Telehealth availability with hurricane survivors to identify those at risk and optimize care. LEAF's data capabilities allow it to manage large data sets and facilitate information workflows between VA administrators and telehealth providers, enabling them to give medical attention to victims faster and more efficiently on a large scale.

VA Telehealth reached out to the LEAF team during the recovery efforts following Hurricane Harvey and during Hurricane Irma, to verify the functionality of the LEAF interface. The LEAF team responded that, within 24 hours of the disaster recovery efforts, they established an ad hoc website that enabled Telehealth providers to volunteer to deliver high-quality care to the victims during specified blocks of time.

"The fact that changes could be made so quickly in response to our evolving needs allowed us to organize our providers of all specialties more efficiently and translate that into a patient care schedule," said Dr. Leonie Heyworth, VA's acting National Telehealth Advisor for primary care.

VA has the nation's largest number of health care providers with a talent pool of over 130,000 clinicians. It is crucial administrative processes run smoothly in the event that a natural disaster

strikes to facilitate care most efficiently. For this very reason, LEAF will be instrumental in coordinating disaster relief support in the future. "Without this LEAF infrastructure we would not have been able to leverage the entire VA workforce to assist in a disaster without disrupting day to day operations. It is without question that the LEAF system will continue to be refined and is the lynch pin in our future ability to quickly respond to disasters," said Matthew Rogers, the V-IMPACT Clinical Operations Director at the Boise VAMC.

Over the past few months, more than 300 VA clinicians from 18 different clinical specialties, have adopted LEAF to fulfill over 6,000 hours of clinic slots to assist with disaster response. Notably, the overwhelming efforts from VA clinicians to fulfill the Telehealth appointments were entirely voluntary. Thank you to all the providers who volunteered their time and energy to provide Telehealth care to those in need.
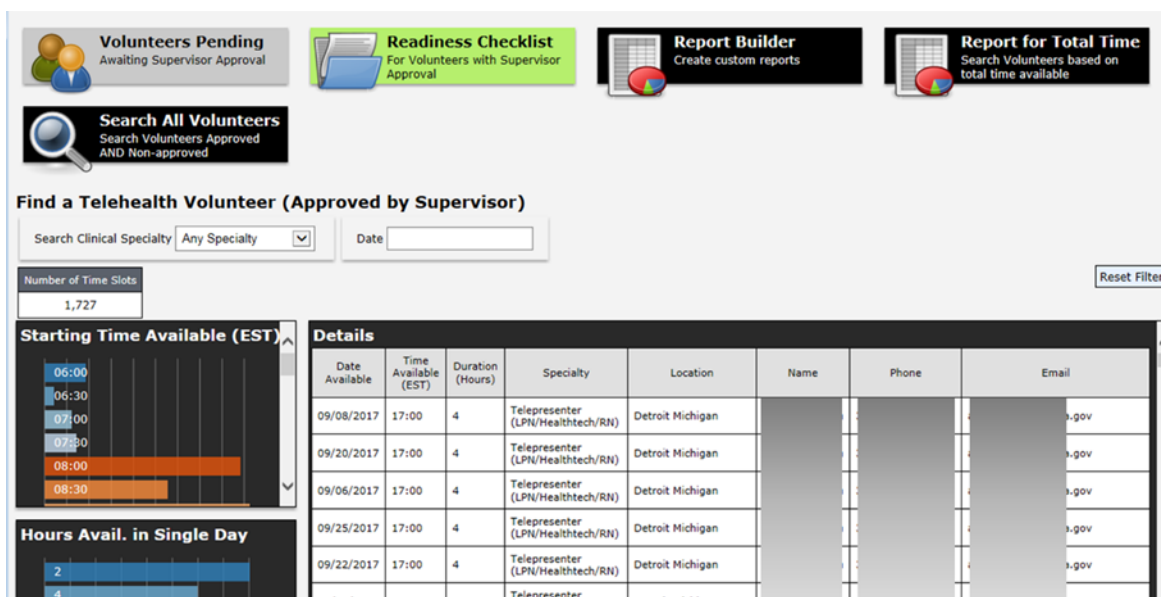
LEAF's disaster response interface

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