

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Headquarters  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



June 13, 2008

Reply to Attn of:

Chief Health and Medical Office

TO: Distribution

FROM: Chief Health and Medical Officer

SUBJECT: NASA Electronic Health Record System

We are pleased to announce that NASA has selected a vendor for a NASA Electronic Health Record System (EHRS). The Agency will have the long-anticipated rollout at the first NASA Occupational Health Clinic that will begin late this year. Full Agency-wide implementation will occur by early 2010.

Each NASA facility with an Occupational Health Clinic will have a common system for recording patient information and scheduling medical exams and tests. This will enhance medical quality assurance for every aspect of occupational health care delivery. For the first time, occupational health clinics will be able to access environmental health data to provide comprehensive medical monitoring, ensuring that employees are placed in the appropriate medical surveillance groups.

Health Information Technology (HIT) has been recognized as a national priority and progress toward HIT is an Agency reportable element to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the President's Management Agenda (PMA), which is a governing document for all federal agencies. NASA's efforts have always received the highest rating available of "green" since the inception of the reporting element due to our efforts toward a standardized electronic health records system. Additionally, the National Institute of Health encouraged our efforts by making a specific recommendation to NASA to adopt an Agency-wide electronic health records system to increase effectiveness.

This is a great program for both the NASA employee and for medical personnel. Employees will have an easier method to input initial patient information and they will have a clear and consistent record available for routine exams, emergency care, or for a record that can follow them if they move to another NASA facility. Employees will spend less time for a clinic visit and the time spent will be more directly related to patient services and care instead of paperwork. Occupational health personnel will need less time entering or retrieving data, have quicker access to medical monitoring equipment data such as vision and hearing testing which will have output entered directly into the

EHR. This will allow medical professionals to spend more time for direct patient care and less time needed for patient record retrieval and entry.

The EHR will undergo the most rigorous tests for computer security and will have the highest protection available for patient records and privacy. We are working closely with the Office of the Chief Information Officer to ensure the system meets all the requirements of NPR 7120.C for program and project management and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

This program has been several years in the planning. Representatives from all 14 Occupational Health Clinics and other Agency information technology and medical personnel have served on working groups to ensure all Center medical work processes were incorporated into the new system.

NASA historically has provided a comprehensive occupational health system for its employees. We believe the NASA population is healthier than comparable populations as a result. An integrated Agency-wide system will improve patient safety, enhance our occupational health programs, and provide data to demonstrate program effectiveness and value. The EHR will provide the data to support positive health outcomes for the NASA population and will be our legacy to the Agency.

Further information regarding system roll-out will be available soon on the NASA Occupational Health website <http://ohp.nasa.gov>.



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