**Page ID**: **#.# CPRS Design Guide**

# Primary Content

**Title**

Enter the **Title** of the **Method** here (REQUIRED).

**CPRS Design Guide**

**Introduction**

Enter the **Introduction** here (REQUIRED).

Get highlights from the CPRS/VistA Pattern Library, which was drafted by the Office of Human Factors Engineering (HFE) to support an understanding of CPRS/VistA capabilities.

This design guide includes:

* An inventory of **best practices** for product design
* A collection of visual references that illustrate the use of **design components** in CPRS/VistA

**Best Practices**

Enter the **Best Practices** here. If there are no details, insert N/A or TBD.

Below is a core sample of CPRS/VistA programming best practices from the National Clinical Reminder Dialog Workgroup and the Office of Human Factors Engineering:

* Narrow scope to address only what is needed.
* Identify data that needs to be tracked before beginning development.
  + Default to national health factors, ICD, and CPT codes as appropriate.
* Build template in smallest components possible to make changes easy, if needed.
* Make template and note output easy to read.
  + Keep the wording short and concise.
  + Avoid abbreviations that have not been previously spelled out.
  + Express the same thing the same way for consistency.
  + Minimize clicking and scrolling.
  + Indent all template fields at least two spaces.
  + Add trailing spaces to single line template fields.
* Keep “like things” together.
* Use clear visual breaks between different content areas.
  + Blank lines
  + \*\*\*\* , \_\_\_\_, +++++, -----, etc.
  + Box only larger reminder groups so as not to make the template look too busy.
* Display previous data (i.e., labs, health factors) only if the user needs to see the info.
  + Keep the user in one place to view relevant information.
  + Make a checkbox to show/hide data.
* Use branching logic to algorithmically guide user.
  + Only show them items that need to be displayed (e.g., a primary care dialog for a male patient would not contain a breast exam).
* Label fields in reminder dialogs so they are easy to identify in error messages.
* Use alternate progress note text that reads well and meets documentation requirements.

**Design Components**

Enter the **Design Components** here. If there are no details, insert N/A or TBD.

See highlights of design components that can be implemented in CPRS/Vista: prompts, groups, and template fields.

The pros and cons associated with each design component is considered and illustrated (Template and Note Output).

**In this section:**

Prompts

Groups

Template Fields

**PROMPTS**

A prompt is a reminder component programmed in VistA and selectable from inside CPRS. It supports specific answers to multiple-choice questions and can be connected to a health factor.

**Pros:**

* Allows default text and additional typed information.
* Allows checkboxes to be horizontal or vertical in template.
* Produces one line of text in note output.

**Cons:**

* Selections do not allow health factors, though a health factor can be attached to an element that also has a prompt.
* Usability/safety risk.
* Cannot align checkboxes with textbox.
* Limits text box to 245 characters.

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

Figure 1. Template and Note Output by four conditions.

**GROUPS**

A group is a reminder component that groups dialog elements or other groups. Elements and groups nested within parent groups inherit functions of the parent group and typically share behavioral and thematic characteristics.

A group can be defined with a finding item and a checkbox. The components in the group can be hidden from the CPRS graphical user interface (GUI) until the dialog group is selected.

**Pros:**

* Allows health factors and orders.
* Allows options to be visible or hidden/nested.
* Allows combination of radio buttons and checkboxes.
* Allows organization with indents and boxes.

**Cons:**

* Limits spacing design options.
* May require extra click.
* Produces two lines of text in note output.
* Note output is only horizontal.

A screenshot of a cell phone

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Figure 2. Template and Note Output by four conditions.

**TEMPLATE FIELDS**

Template fields are reminder components selectable from inside CPRS that collect information from the user. The information is always saved as free text and cannot be connected to a health factor.

**Pros:**

* Allows single line and default text.
* Allows radio button, checkbox, combo box, and hyperlinks.
* Allows fields to be required.

**Cons:**

* Does not allow health factors.
* Does not allow editing of default text.
* Usability/safety risks.

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

Figure 3. Template and Note Output by two items.

Source: Adams, K. & Tibbs, K. (2019). [CPRS/VistA Pattern Library.](javascript:%20void(0);) Veterans Health Administration, Office of Human Factors Engineering.

**Excerpt**

Summary text for WordPress.

Get highlights from the CPRS/VistA Pattern Library and download the full document.