**FY24 VA-DoD Joint Incentive Fund Proposal**

**Veteran Health Data Pods:**

**Veteran-controlled Health Data Hubs Enabling Continuity of Care**

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**Executive Summary**

VA has nearly 9 million veterans under its direct care. This pilot demonstrate how VA can deploy and manage a fleet of cloud-based patient-controlled health data hubs at scale using the Solid web standard[[1]](#footnote-1) to enable veteran control of their core health data and improve continuity of care as they move between the VA and Community Care systems.

**Background and Previous Work**

Healthcare in the United States is provided through 6000 hospitals, 35,000 outpatient clinics, 80,000 pharmacies, 15,000 clinical laboratories. Each institution uses a different information system. This fragments the patient health data into tens of thousands of information systems, each controlled by different parties, with unique processes to access to each component of the record. Patient portals view or download some component of their health data, this challenging to maintain continuity of care for veterans veterans receiving care in the Community diversity of EHRs[[2]](#footnote-2).

Solid, an emerging web standard for secure personally controlled data on the web, would allow veterans to control their own health data in a vendor-neutral, web-standard cloud-based platform. Veterans can access, create, update, and amend their own health record themselves. Veterans can also delegate authority to access, update, or share their Solid health data to relatives and third parties. Solid addresses the patients problem of not knowing or remembering all the entities that are storing and using their health data and puts it in the veterans’ in control of their health information.

Several national governments are piloting Solid as a means to enable personal control and management of their citizens most personal data. Belgium is deploying Solid data hubs for all 6.5 million citizens so they may control their own data, identity, health, and services. The Swedish government is in the process of rolling out Solid nationwide. The National Health System (NHS) in the UK is piloting Solid hubs for a cohort of over a million patients. Solid is fully compatible storing health information in the FHIR[[3]](#footnote-3) format. The NHS synchronizes FHIR data to Solid as their provisioning strategy. Solid provisioning has been tested up to 30 million hubs and is limited only to the cloud hosting infrastructure.

**Outcome**

The Solid-based Veteran Health Data Hub will improve quality, access, and coordination to care as the veterans health data moves with the veteran wherever they receive care.

**Implementation, Cost, and Schedule**

The Veteran Health Data Hub will be implemented in the VA Enterprise Cloud, a federally certified HIPAA-compliant commercial cloud. This provides rapid implementation in the most secure, scalable hosting environment available to VA. An initial fleet of up to 500,000 Solid Hubs will be provisioned via export of FHIR data, and offered to all veterans via multi-channel, web-based enrollment. Continuous evaluation of the use of Health Data Hubs by veterans by human factors engineering and usability experts will feed back into the user interface and user experience design. Estimated cost for one-year pilot will be $1 million.

1. <https://solidproject.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. There are over 11,000 unique electronic health records systems in use in the United States. The complete list of certified Health IT products is listed at https://chpl.healthit.gov/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.w3.org/2019/Talks/1209-swat4ls-egp/ [↑](#footnote-ref-3)