

From: Social Security Administration, Office of External Affairs <OEA.Net.Post@ssa.gov>
To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
Date: 11/9/2016 12:19:57 PM
Subject: We're Partnering with the Department of Veteran Affairs to Improve Services to Veterans!

Dear Colleague:

On October 11, 2016, the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced a new initiative to improve services to Veterans and their dependents who apply for Social Security disability benefits. This initiative enables Social Security disability processing sites to receive medical records electronically through health information technology (health IT) through a system-generated request.

Health IT capability uses existing information systems and supports national standards, policies, and procedures to exchange health information securely through the eHealth Exchange. This technology enables us to access Veterans' medical records electronically.

Social Security is more than retirement. We request more than 15 million medical records from health care providers each year to make decisions on over three million disability claims annually. Medical documentation is essential for disability determination through all adjudicative levels. Historically, we obtain medical records through a mail request (e.g., fax, mail, etc.). Health IT gives us the ability to obtain medical records automatically without human intervention.

We continue to find innovative ways to maximize the use of health IT in our disability claims processing. Visit our website for more information at <https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityssi/hit/>.

You can also visit our [blog](#) for more details about the health IT initiative with VA.

Please share this news with your members, colleagues, and other interested parties.

Sincerely,

J. Jioni Palmer
Associate Commissioner for External Affairs
[@SSAOutreach](#)

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