

Sharing Electronic Patient Records Between VHA and IHS at the Point of Care

An interim approach to providing
IHS clinicians with access to VHA
records: Status as of 12/2008

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VHA-IHS electronic record sharing

IHS Information Technology
Conference

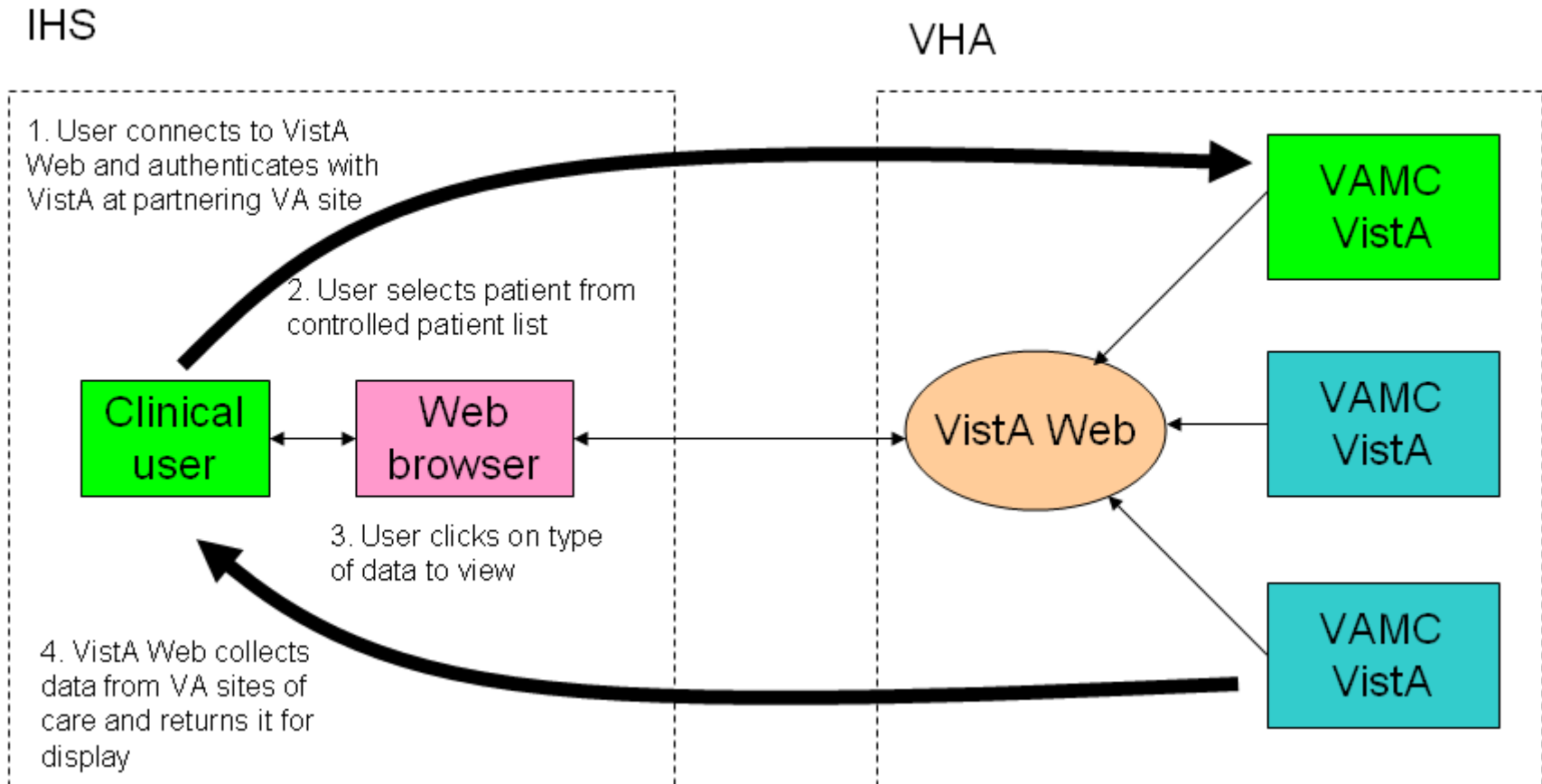
Phoenix, Arizona

December 15-19, 2008₁

Background

- No current generally available capability for sharing VHA and IHS electronic patient records at the point of care.
- Mutual connection to the National Health Information Network (NHIN) considered a better definitive solution than adding IHS to the existing VHA-DoD Bidirectional Health Information Exchange (BHIE) framework.
- Simpler interim approach is being developed for mutual access to each other's EHR systems using standard web browser technology. IHS access to VHA records is being implemented first, to be followed by VHA access to IHS records.
- Less complete solution than NHIN will eventually provide, and the process is necessarily more complex due to barriers imposed by current privacy regulation, but it does provide a workable approach at the local level for sites wanting to share data now.

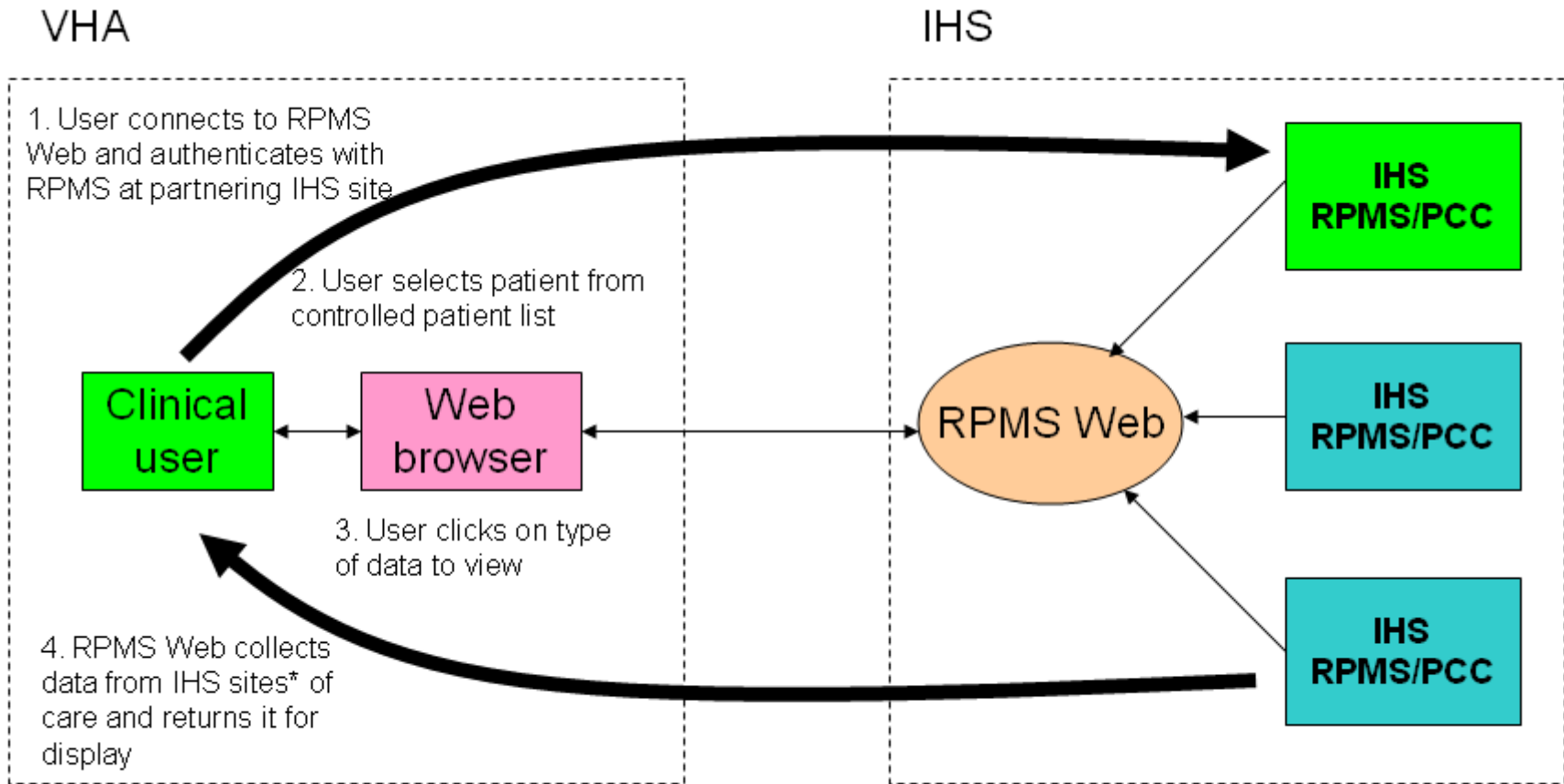
How It Works (Now)



What It Takes

- Local MOU between IHS facility and VHA facility (template available)
- VistA accounts for IHS clinicians
- IHS collection of informed consent from patients for sharing of all electronic records (covers current privacy policy requirements)
- Addition of patients to list of patients visible by IHS provider (done by VHA; uses consent as trigger to add)

Next Phase (2009)



*Retrieves data from a single IHS site until a Master Patient Index is available.

What It Will Take in Phase II

- Use of the same MOU – no duplicate effort
- RPMS accounts for VHA clinicians
- Same collection of informed consent from patients for sharing of all electronic records
- Addition of patients to list of patients visible by VHA provider (done by IHS; uses consent as trigger to add)

Why Do This?

- Enables access to data until NHIN exchange is available.
- Uses standard browser technology, doesn't require the CPRS client
- Uses the secure VA-IHS network interconnection, doesn't require special connections
- MOU supports VHA access to IHS data once the development work is completed

How To Get Started

- Look at the documents posted on the VHA-IHS collaboration server at <http://vhacollaboration.ihs.gov/interimsharing/>
- Determine level of sharing with VA
- Discuss the idea with your clinical staff
- Discuss the idea with your local VA contacts
- Execute the MOU using the template

QUESTIONS?

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