

## Who is Involved?

### The Federal Government

VLER is led by DoD, VA, and the DoD/VA Interagency Program Office (IPO), which coordinates DoD/VA information-sharing initiatives. DoD and VA are working with other federal partners to implement VLER.

### The Private Sector

VLER builds on previous DoD and VA data-sharing initiatives, but goes a step further by including private healthcare and benefits providers. Partners involved in initial VLER health pilots have included Kaiser Permanente, MedVirginia, Inland Northwest Health Services, and MultiCare Health System. The ultimate goal is to open up VLER to a wide variety of authorized private partners.



*More than half of all Service Members and Veterans receive a portion of their care from private facilities. VLER aims to ensure that care providers have access to the most complete health information possible.*

## How do I learn more?

The lead organization for DoD participation in VLER is Personnel & Readiness Information Management, under the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. For more information please email [VLERinfo@osd.pentagon.mil](mailto:VLERinfo@osd.pentagon.mil) or visit the Office of Personnel and Readiness Information Management Web site, at: <http://www.prim.osd.mil>

# VLER The Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record Initiative



## What is VLER?

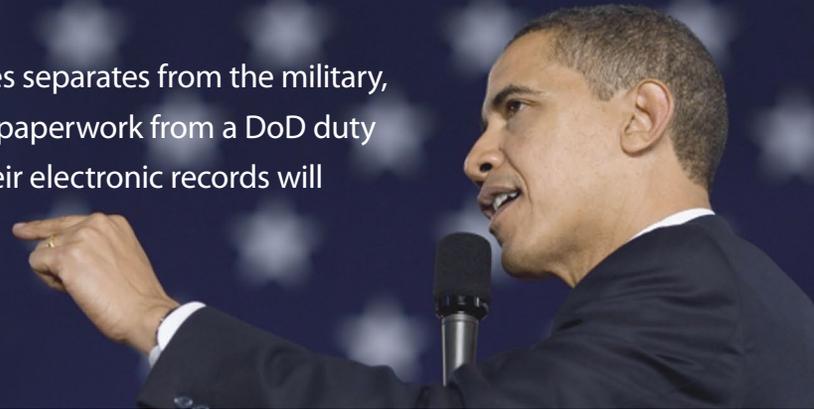
The VLER initiative is a capability that allows Service Members' and Veterans' electronic health and administrative (personnel and benefits) information to be shared seamlessly among the Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and other federal and private providers.

VLER will . . .

- Allow multidirectional exchange of health and benefits information among private health care and benefits providers, VA Medical Centers and administrative offices, and DoD Medical Treatment Facilities, improving the continuity of care and benefits adjudication
- Offer a more complete picture of a Service Member's or Veteran's medical history and benefit eligibility regardless of where he or she received health care or benefits guidance
- Take the burden off the Service Member or Veteran for carrying paper copies of records from one office to another
- Provide a common access point for a patient's electronic health information and proactively recommend certain benefits to which a Service Member or Veteran could be eligible

VLER is not a new records-management system, or even a new set of records. Instead, VLER allows existing systems owned by different organizations to communicate with one another.

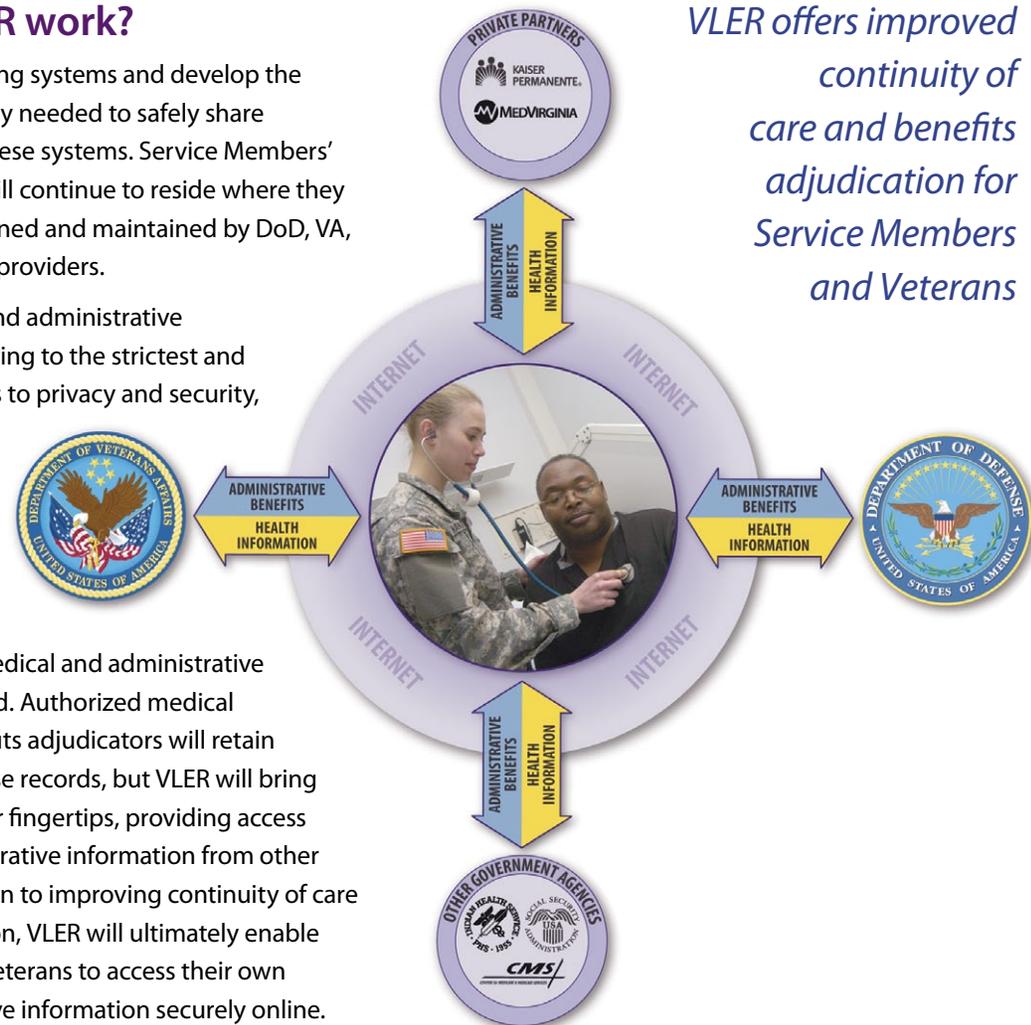
"When a member of the Armed Forces separates from the military, he or she will no longer have to walk paperwork from a DoD duty station to a local VA health center; their electronic records will transition along with them and remain with them forever."



## How does VLER work?

VLER will leverage existing systems and develop the methods and technology needed to safely share information between these systems. Service Members' and Veterans' records will continue to reside where they do now – in systems owned and maintained by DoD, VA, and federal and private providers.

VLER will share health and administrative information while adhering to the strictest and most rigorous standards to privacy and security, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), so that our Service Members and Veterans can have confidence that their medical and administrative records will be protected. Authorized medical professionals and benefits adjudicators will retain the ability to access these records, but VLER will bring new information to their fingertips, providing access to medical and administrative information from other organizations. In addition to improving continuity of care and benefits adjudication, VLER will ultimately enable Service Members and Veterans to access their own health and administrative information securely online.



*VLER offers improved continuity of care and benefits adjudication for Service Members and Veterans*