

## **Fact Sheet**

July 2009

## My Healthe Vet - VA's Online Personal Health Record

VA's online personal health record, My Health<u>e</u>Vet, located at <u>www.myhealth.va.gov</u>, provides America's Veterans access to personal, secure, informed health information. Through a Web-based portal, registered Veterans have Internet access at any time to VA health information that allows them to become informed partners in their care with their medical providers.

Any Internet user may record and store important health and military history information and access personal medical information by registering at the Web site. Visitors to the site can keep activity and food journals; record, track and graph their vital signs; record and store their health history and prescriptions; access trusted health information; and read about VA benefits and services.

Veterans enrolled for care at a VA facility can use enhanced functions online after they make a visit to a VA medical center to verify their identity. These registrants can request VA prescription refills online and receive personalized reminders and tips on how to stay well. More than 6.5 million refills have been requested since 2005. The refills are delivered to Veterans' homes in five to 10 business days.

In the near future, Veterans will be able to schedule and change appointments, view their laboratory results, enter and update their own health information for their medical providers to monitor, and communicate with their VA medical care team through secure messaging.

Launched nationwide in 2003, My Healthe Vet has more than 740,000 registered users; 72 percent are VA patients.

My Healthe Vet's secure portal allows Veterans to own their personal information. The information they track most often is medication history, health history, contact information for health care providers, weight and blood pressure. The program is bringing them incremental additions of data copied from their VA electronic health records.

Secure messaging, now being implemented at several VA health care facilities, will provide VA patients and clinicians an alternative communication channel that is convenient and flexible, reduce the need for phone calls and provide timely responses. It may decrease the need for unscheduled clinic visits.

In addition to My Healthe Vet linking to two trusted medical libraries, Medline Plus and Health Wise, in 2009 clusters of health topics and advice were created to guide viewers easily to categories of useful information. Under "Research Health," readers find information for avoiding illness (Healthy Living Centers); facts about common conditions (Diseases & Conditions Centers); and screening for various kinds of mental illness.

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