

# Databases: Closing the Gap Between Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the VA

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# Overview

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1. Is there a need for an amputation repository?
2. If yes, can we use an existing mechanism?
3. What is it?
4. What are the steps?

# The Specific Problem

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- ~ 150 upper and lower limb servicemen with amputees at Walter Reed
- Rehabilitation and prosthetic needs pre-discharge
- Rehabilitation and prosthetic needs post-discharge

# Does the need for a repository extend to other services?

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- Army – other than Walter Reed?
- Navy/Marines?
- Air Force?

# What is a Repository?

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- Active
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Passive

# Possible Repository Functions?

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- Data sharing - bridge patient care DoD-VA
- Treatment information
- Long term surveillance information
- Benefit information
- Research

# There is an existing mechanism!

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- The Federal Health Information Exchange (FHIE) Program - a Federal health care initiative
- Facilitates secure electronic one-way exchange of patient medical information between Government health organizations
- Participants = Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs

# FHIE Organization

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## FHIE Structure

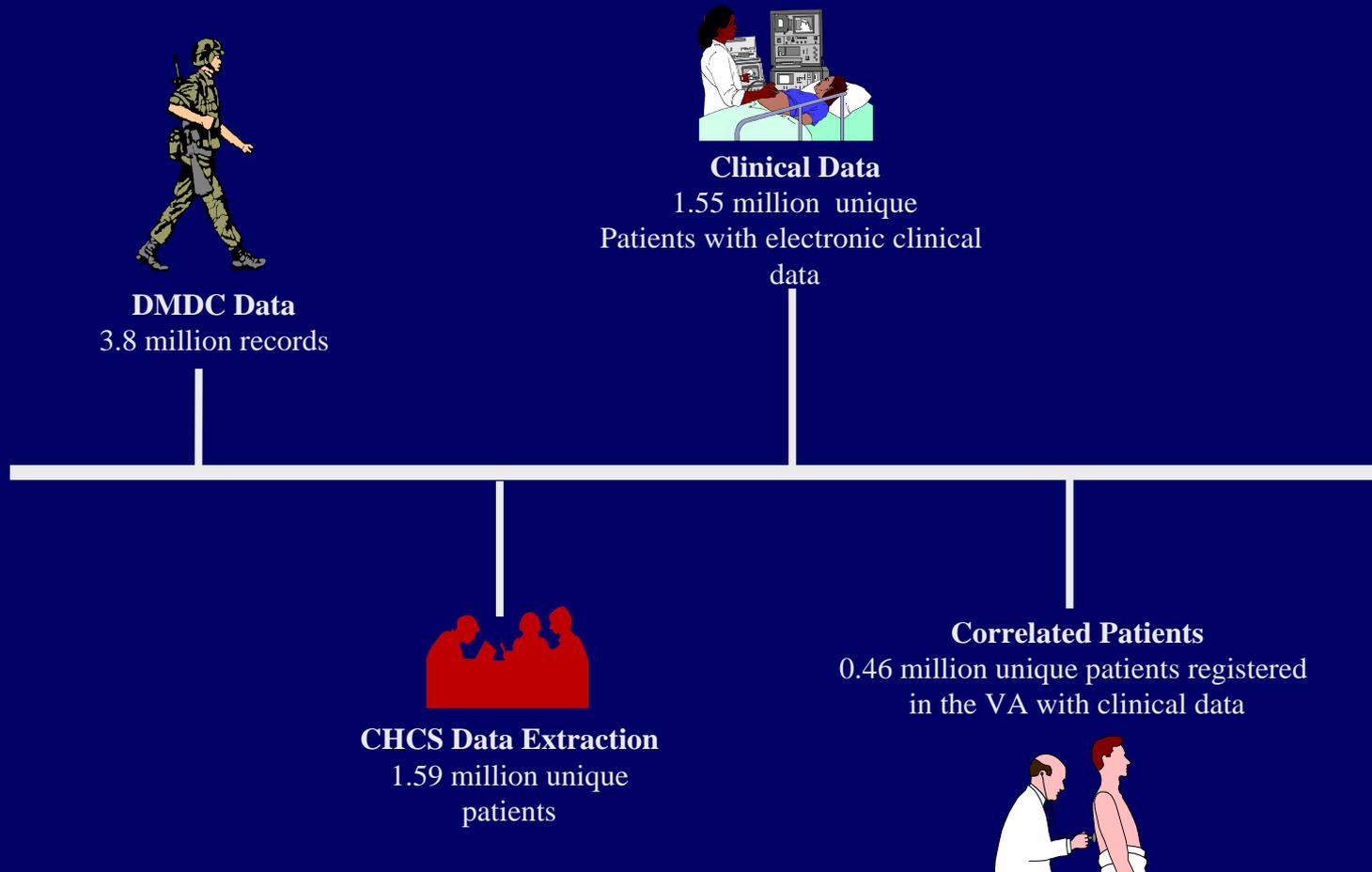
Director, Greg Donham, MS

([Greg.Donham@med.VA.gov](mailto:Greg.Donham@med.VA.gov))

FHIE Mission - develop an electronic communication system where VA health care providers can access and pertinent DoD medical information about an individual across the continuum of care and protects her/his privacy.

# FHIE Repository Statistics

## Separated Service Members



# The FHIE Mechanism

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- Certified for DoD-VA operation
- DoD records on secure servers in Austin.
- Desktop access for approved VA CPRS users

# Are there examples of this approach?

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Madigan/DoD - Puget Sound/VA PTSD

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# How Can FHIE Help Us with our Amputees Problems?

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- Military health records
- ???
- ???
- ???

# What are the steps to use of this approach?

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1. Buy-in - Secretary of DoD, VA
2. Signed agreement addressing issues of
  - Data
  - Access
  - Time frame
  - Cost

# What are the next steps to use this approach?

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3. FHIE modify architecture and system
4. Add domains for amputees
5. CPRS access
6. Research access
7. Administrative costs and personnel

# Other Applications?

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Important health/public health conditions

Public health benefits

- Domains
- Personnel
- Cost

# Recommendations

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- DoD -VA personnel map out specific terms for agreement
- Line up support and resources
- Expand existing FHIE mechanism