JUN 2 6 2017

Dear Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to announce two Indian Health Service (IHS) listening sessions related to the Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) Electronic Health Record (EHR). As a first step and in accordance with IHS policies on Tribal Consultation and Conferring with Urban Indian Organizations, the IHS will seek input and recommendations from American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes and Tribal Organizations, as well as, Urban Indian Organizations, through listening sessions on how best to modernize and improve our EHR.

The IHS has made significant advances in health information technology as a result of our partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Earlier this month, the VA announced plans to modernize their EHR, the Veterans Information System and Technical Architecture (VistA). While not immediate, this change will impact the IHS RPMS EHR. To best prepare for upcoming changes, we will continue to work with the VA and take necessary steps to modernize our EHR platform by working closely with Tribal and Urban partners.

Since 1984, the IHS has relied on RPMS as our health information solution. The RPMS is a government-developed health information system comprised of over 80 integrated software applications. The RPMS is VistA at its core, sharing much of the same infrastructure and some clinical applications with the VA. Over time however, the RPMS has evolved, adding many improvements, functions, and interface capabilities that do not exist in VistA. For example, many VA applications, including laboratory and pharmacy, have been extensively modified to meet IHS requirements.

Additionally, the IHS has developed numerous applications independently of the VA to address IHS-specific mission and business needs, such as patient- and population-based clinical, practice management, and financially oriented administrative processes. Information about the IHS RPMS may be found at: https://www.ihs.gov/rpms/. Information about the VA's EHR selection is available at the following Web site: https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2914.

The IHS will host two listening sessions via teleconference to engage our Tribal and Urban partners and stakeholders. The session time, dates, and conference line information are listed below, and will also be posted on the IHS Calendar of Events on the IHS Web site at: https://www.ihs.gov/ihscalendar/.

Listening

- Thursday, July 6, 2017 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. (Eastern)
- Monday, July 10, 2017 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. (Eastern)

Page 2 - Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leader

Conference Call Details

- Conference Call: (888) 916-0647
- Participant Passcode: 7693138

As we conduct these listening sessions, I also invite you to provide input or feedback in writing. The comment deadline is August 25, 2017.

Please provide your written comments and recommendations as indicated below:

TRIBAL LEADERS	URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATION LEADERS
▪ By **E-MAIL:** at consultation@ihs.gov	▪ By **E-MAIL**: at urbanconfer@ihs.gov
Subject line: **RPMS CONSULTATION**	Subject line: **RPMS CONFER**
By **POSTAL MAIL**	By **POSTAL MAIL**
RADM Michael D. Weahkee Acting Director Indian Health Service 5600 Fishers Lane Mail stop: 08E86 Rockville, MD 20857 **ATTN: RPMS CONSULTATION**	RADM Michael D. Weahkee Acting Director Indian Health Service 5600 Fishers Lane Mail stop: 08E86 Rockville, MD 20857 **ATTN: RPMS URBAN CONFER**

I look forward to your views and comments. If you have any questions, please contact Captain Mark Rives, Chief Information Officer, and Director, Office of Information Technology, IHS, by telephone at (301) 443-2019 or by e-mail at mark.rives@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

/Michael D. Weahkee/
RADM Michael D. Weahkee, MBA, MHSA
Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service
Acting Director