

## VA Mobile Health Provider Program Receives Attention from IT Industry Leader

During Apple Inc.'s second quarterly Earnings Report last month, Luca Maestri, Vice President of Finance and Corporate Controller, highlighted [VA Mobile Health Provider Program](#) as transforming "the way doctors and patients interact." His commentary became the subject of several IT industry articles, including one published by [Forbes](#) and another from [CITEWorld](#).

In March 2014, the Mobile Health Provider Program began equipping providers at targeted VA health care facilities with mobile devices (i.e., tablets). The goal of the program is to provide up to 10,000 devices at 19 facilities by September 2014. The program is a collaborative effort between the VA Office of Information and Technology (OI&T) and the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Office of Informatics and Analytics' Connected Health Office.

This week, a team of IT and health care professionals from VA will be onsite at the Puget Sound Health Care System in Seattle, Washington where they will provide mobile devices to more than 470 health care providers. With this visit, the total number of providers participating in the program to date will surpass 1,200.

Puget Sound Health Care System is the fifth deployment of its kind since mid-February. Other recent deployments include two facilities in the Tennessee Valley Healthcare System, the Washington, DC and Orlando, VA Medical Centers.

In the program's first phase, the mobile devices will have unlimited cellular 4 LTE network access as well as access to VA remote systems, VA WiFi, VA email and video teleconferencing. Additionally, the devices will have access to commercially available mobile health (mHealth) apps that have passed VA security reviews, and other software capabilities to assist providers with accessing information in the medical center as well as off-site.

During the second phase of the program, the mobile devices will be loaded with VA-developed apps that will allow for quick access to real-time information to inform clinical decisions; assist Veterans and Caregivers with self-management; and eventually allow providers to write progress notes, enter a subset of orders, and complete other clinical tasks.

Building upon the successes of My HealthVet and VA Blue Button, this program aims to transform the way clinicians and patients interact. Providing access to mobile health technologies supports VA's vision of a patient-centered health care delivery model, as well as underscores VA's commitment to transform the way care is delivered.

For more information about the VA's Mobile Health Provider Program, visit the VA Mobile Health website at <http://mobilehealth.va.gov/providers>.

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