

Dear Acting Director Weahkee,

We write on behalf of United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) to provide the [attached comment letter](#) to the Indian Health Service (IHS) on its request for input and recommendations from Tribal Nations and Tribal Organizations as IHS moves to evaluate the future of the Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) Electronic Health Record (EHR).

On June 26<sup>th</sup> 2017, IHS released a Dear Tribal Leader advising that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) had announced plans to modernize their EHR, the Veterans Information System and Technical Architecture (VistA). This action would have a direct impact on the IHS RPMS EHR as both RPMS and VistA databases share infrastructure and clinical applications.

Overall, USET SPF would like to stress the importance of including Tribal Nations throughout the process of collecting information to support any decisions moving forward. To date, there have been mixed positions from Indian Country on what IHS should consider in advancing and modernizing the current RPMS EHR. Some Tribal Nations support the need for a new EHR but worry about the cost of maintaining and customizing to meet the needs of the Indian healthcare system, while other Tribal Nations support maintaining and improving the existing RPMS EHR. At these initial stages of discussion, it is evident that Indian Country is divided on the future of RPMS EHR. USET SPF respectfully requests that the IHS consider the concerns provided in the attached letter before making such a significant decision.

Should you have questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me using the information below.

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