



OPPORTUNITY

FastTrack PGx at the VA emerged from a critical need to accelerate receipt of PGx test results. Providers had faced significant delays of up to 14 days to access PGx results, hindering patient care.

INNOVATION

Streamlining this process with timely, easily accessible PGx as a clinical decision support (CDS) tool has changed the game. PGx-Data Arch now enters PGx results directly into the EHR in minutes.

SOLUTION

FastTrack PGx integrates and interoperates between PGx testing laboratories and the VA EHR, backed by InterSystems IRIS® data platform.

IMPACT

Besides accelerating actionable PGx results, FastTrack PGx has reduced provider burnout, labor costs, manual data entry errors, and foreseeable medication side effects and failures. Provider adoption rates have been high.

FastTrack PGx: Enabling Precision Medicine for US Veteran Patients

The FastTrack PGx (PGx-Data Arch) is a groundbreaking innovation by the [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#) (VA) aimed at facilitating the delivery of robust PGx-driven treatments. By integrating pharmacogenomics (PGx) results directly into VA's electronic health records (EHRs), FastTrack PGx empowers providers to tailor medications based on patient genes, consequently leading to better health outcomes and potentially lower healthcare costs. The comprehensive and free availability of PGx testing to all Veterans sets a new standard for healthcare innovation—eliminating the trial-and-error in prescribing. This demonstrates the **VA's commitment to advancing precision health for all Veterans**.

Integrating PGx Data and Democratizing Decisions

FastTrack PGx addressed the lack of interoperability and integration between the VA's EHR system and the laboratories that provide PGx results. Patient results were manually entered into the EHR. The platform now automates the transformation and transmission of PGx results directly into EHRs as notes. Providers are alerted when PGx results are ready for review.

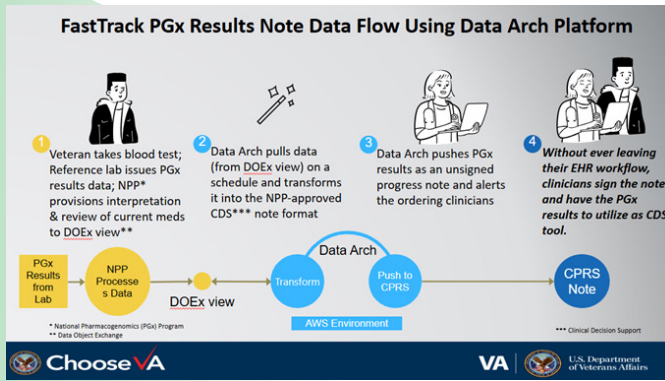
Another provider pain point is logging into another resource to retrieve PGx results. With limited time and increasing workload, providers are often dissuaded from utilizing PGx to guide the selection of the most effective drug and optimal dosage, thereby enhancing treatment outcomes and minimizing side effects. By making this process seamless, FastTrack PGx can profoundly change health outcomes.

Perhaps the most meaningful impact of FastTrack PGx on the patient is the return of "value." Knowledge of which medications one can process and absorb can let patients be actively engaged in their care while keeping themselves safe from unnecessary side effects. Traditionally entrusted only to clinicians, patients can now participate in deciding on their prescriptions. It may be argued the true value of timely and accessible PGx results is in **democratizing clinical decision-making** with the Veteran patient as an active partner, not a passive follower.



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs





What FastTrack PGx Does for Patients and Providers

Rapid turnaround time: The FastTrack PGx (also known as PGx-Data Arch) significantly reduces the turnaround time to obtain PGx test results, ensuring that providers can utilize the PGx as a clinical decision support tool in prescribing.

Timeliness and accessibility: FastTrack PGx facilitates timely and accessible information on actionable medications. Providers are guided in prescription selection and dosing, enhancing patient safety and care quality.

“FastTrack PGx enables precision medicine for all Veterans by making PGx results easily accessible to the prescribing provider. The timely access to this vital PGx information is critical in delivering individualized care: the right drug at the right dose for the right patient at the right time. No more one size fits all approach.”

Rona Margaret Relova
MD, Innovator/Health
Scientist, Precision Health
Service, VA Palo Alto Health
Care System

Seamless integration: PGx results are integrated directly into the VA’s electronic health record as an unsigned progress note, alerting providers to the availability of the PGx information, thereby streamlining the provider’s workflow.

Clinical decision support: The Data Arch platform automates the push of evidence based PGx interpretations and recommendations (provisioned by the National PGx Program office) based on latest scientific guidelines.

“Easy access to my PGx result informs me of commonly prescribed medications that my body can process, based on my genetic profile; and guides my care team which prescriptions will be most beneficial and safe for me. It’s a powerful reminder that precision medicine considers the unique biology of each Veteran, not just shared history. An innovation that enables individualized prescriptions essentially provides patient-centered and precision care!”

Kim Poppler, DBH, US Air Force Veteran (Post 9/11-OIF/OEF/OND), Health Science Officer, VA Palo Alto Health Care System

About the Winner: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is a federal agency dedicated to serving and honoring America’s Veterans. The VA is the largest integrated health care system in the United States, operated by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to provide comprehensive care to enrolled Veterans through a network of medical centers, outpatient clinics, and other facilities across the nation.

Its mission, “To fulfill President Lincoln’s promise to care for those who have served in our nation’s military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors,” includes delivering world-class health care, disability compensation, education benefits, housing assistance, and support for caregivers and survivors. The VA currently serves over 9.1 million enrolled Veterans.

About the InterSystems Impact Awards, Selected by an MIT Panel

Each year, select client organizations are recognized at the InterSystems READY conference for projects driving positive change. Nominations are evaluated by independent judges from MIT on three criteria:

- Makes a significant difference
- Breaks new ground
- Sets an example

To learn more about the InterSystems Impact Awards visit

<https://www.intersystems.com/intersystems-impact-awards/>