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ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

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April 8, 2022

The Honorable Donald Remy
 Deputy Secretary
 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
 810 Vermont Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20420

Travis Dalton
 President
 Cerner Government Services
 2800 Rock Creek Parkway
 North Kansas City, MO 64117

Dear Deputy Secretary Remy and Mr. Dalton:

I urge you to commence work immediately to fix the interface between Cerner's core electronic health record, PowerChart, and its pharmacy module, Medication Manager Retail (MMR). Until a true bidirectional interface is put in place, pharmacists at the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center, the Jonathan M. Wainwright VA Medical Center, and any subsequent sites will struggle with a needlessly complicated, time-consuming, error-prone, double-entry process to prescribe medication that saps productivity and puts veterans at risk. This is the single greatest technical problem with the Cerner EHR, and it has created, directly or indirectly, more patient safety incident reports than any other factor.

Mann-Grandstaff personnel first highlighted this problem at least six months ago. The Electronic Health Record Modernization Integration Office identified it as a priority at least two months ago. However, it appears that no action has been taken. VA must issue Cerner contractual direction—today—to begin developing the interface. Cerner must assign personnel—today—to concentrate on this effort. It is my understanding that such a project to write and test EHR code would typically take Cerner roughly two years. This must be accelerated. It is clearly necessary to make the EHR system fully functional, and I question why it was not originally part of the Cerner contract. However, I encourage you to defer any potential disputes over financial responsibility in order to proceed with the work. The Electronic Health Record Modernization program is already perilously behind in addressing this problem, and knowingly spreading it to other medical centers' pharmacies would be irresponsible.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter.

Sincerely,

MATTHEW ROSENDALE, SR.
 Ranking Member
 Subcommittee on Technology Modernization