Pharmacy Enterprise Customization System (PECS)

Release Notes

Version 5.0

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Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Information and Technology (OIT)
Product Development (PD)

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1. Introduction

The goal of the Pharmacy Reengineering (PRE) project is to replace the current M-based suite of pharmacy applications with a system that will better meet the current and expected business needs for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and address the ever-changing patient safety issues. PRE is intended to build on the work accomplished in 2006 with the development of the Pharmacy Enterprise Product System (PEPS) Proof of Concept (POC). The first phase, PRE V.0.5, implemented enhanced order checking functionality utilizing Health*e*Vet (H*e*V) compatible architecture and First Databank (FDB) MedKnowledge Application Program Interfaces (APIs) and database. The Pharmacy Enterprise Customization System (PECS) is a component of PRE that is intended to customize the First Databank MedKnowledge Framework COTS database in order to integrate VA custom records. A process to automatically update the standard and custom FDB data at the local database has also been provided.

In response to the Project Management Accountability System (PMAS) initiative instituted in the summer of 2009 that requires projects to complete an increment every six months, PRE now uses an Agile Development methodology, which focuses on developing a usable product at the end of small, iterative timeframes, with involvement and approval from the product owner at every iteration. Each small timeframe, called a sprint, ends with a workable product that is built on the previous efforts until the increment is complete and meets the PMAS schedule. Each increment produces agreed-upon functionality that is available to the entire user community upon National Deployment.

PECS v1.0, the initial version, was deployed to production in 2011 and remained in use until PECS v2.1 was deployed. PECS v2.0 was dedicated to the re-architecture of the application but was never deployed. PECS v2.1 implemented approved development tools (Spring MVC) and additional functionality. PECS v2.2 and PECS v3.0 focused on implementing new features needed by the Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) team.

This Release Notes document provides a brief description of the new features and functions of PECS v5.0.

Note: The unusual numerical jump from PECS v3.0 to PECS v5.0 is due to delays associated with MOCHA 2.0 product impeding the progress of PECS v3.0. It was decided in mid-2103 to combine the enhancements planned for both PECS v4.0 and PECS v5.0 to facilitate forward progress and reduce administrative overhead.

2. Enhancements

PECS v5.0 provides both functional and architectural enhancements.

2.1. Functional Enhancements

- Enhancements to export functionality to show the date an approved or deleted Drug-Drug Interaction, Drug Pairs, Dose Range, Duplicate Therapy or Professional Monograph was exported to the incremental file.

- Enhancements to non-customized Drug-Drug Interaction, Drug Pairs, Dose Range, Duplicate Therapy or Professional Monograph records.

- Comparison reports for the Dose Range FDB Updates.

- Enhancement to linking Dose Range records to the FDB record.

- Removed reverse interactions from the DDI Comparison Report

- Enhancements to the contact list.

2.2. Architectural Enhancements

- Analysis of upgrade from FDB MedKnowledge 3.3 to 4.x