

FW: Re - Press Inquiry - Flow Health Contract, Agreement or Partnership - VHA Electronic Health Records?



Ben,

Henry is out of the office today, but asked that I forward this to you.

He should be back in tomorrow.

Thanks.

VA STATEMENT

On December 20, the Department of Veterans Affairs terminated a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement with Flow Health Inc., a San Francisco-based company. [We took this action](#) after it was determined that the agreement, which involves genomic data from the Million Veteran Program (MVP), may violate regulations, VA policy, and VA's longstanding commitment to our Veterans to protect their data.

It is important to note that no Veteran data were shared nor compromised.

Entering into such an agreement with any company requires additional research, consultation with medical and privacy experts and appropriate, senior-level signoffs to make sure the use of the data comports with the letter and spirit of applicable regulations and policies while also protecting Veterans' sensitive data. That was not fully done in this instance.

Launched in 2011, MVP – with more than 500,000 volunteer participants – is the largest genomic database of its kind in the world. Participants donate blood from which DNA is extracted. MVP will accelerate our understanding of disease detection, progression, prevention and treatment by combining this genomic data with rich clinical and environmental data. MVP will allow the nation's top researchers to perform the most cutting-edge science to treat some of the nation's most troubling diseases – not just among Veterans, but those that impact individuals worldwide.

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VA ceased to be named the Veterans Administration on March 15, 1989 when President Ronald Reagan elevated it to a Cabinet level department. At that time, VA became the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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BK

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