

*Hospital Information Systems at the  
Veterans Administration*

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**Hospital  
Information  
Systems  
at the  
Veterans  
Administration**

**Special Report**



GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE  
Office of Technology Assessment  
Report # O-87-140

## Foreword

This Special Report focuses on the Decentralized Hospital Computer Program (DHCP) currently under development at the Veterans Administration. The study was requested by the House Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

OTA's Special Report addresses near-term and long-term decisions that must be made concerning the direction of hospital information systems development at the VA. The Special Report formulates and offers options for Congressional consideration and emphasizes VA's need for effective strategic planning and exploration of multiple technological alternatives.

This Special Report is intended as a narrowly focused, quick response to the concerns of the requesting committees. The study process included a general review of the features and costs of DHCP and three competing commercial hospital information systems, but it did not involve an in-depth review of the underlying technology of any of the systems. The study included a general review of the Veterans Administration's current development process and deployment plans for DHCP, as well as the Department of Medicine and Surgery's strategic planning processes for hospital information systems.

OTA appreciates the participation of the advisory panelists, working group participants, VA officials and staff, and many other persons who provided information or review comments. The report itself, however, is solely the responsibility of OTA, not of those who so ably advised and assisted us in its preparation.



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NOTE: OTA appreciates and is grateful for the valuable assistance and thoughtful critiques provided by the advisory panel members. The panel does not, however, necessarily approve, disapprove, or endorse this report. OTA assumes full responsibility for the report and the accuracy of its contents.

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