



RESEARCHERS' GUIDE TO VA DATA

VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

Data Issues Brief

August 2011

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VIREC UPDATES

1. VIREC Presentations at AMIA Annual Symposium

VIREC will lead a panel and present two posters at the upcoming meeting of the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA), to be held October 22-26, 2011, in Washington D.C.

Lessons from Evaluating the Implementation of New Informatics in an Integrated Healthcare Delivery System: The Veterans Health Administration (Panel)

Oct 24, 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

R. Perrin; D. Hynes; M. Goldstein; C. Achtmeyer; A. Young

Health Information Technology to Improve Healthcare Quality: Lessons from the VA (Poster)

Oct 24, 5:15 PM – 7:00 PM

D. Hynes; E. Whittier; M. Browning; R. Perrin; J. Humensky; T. Weddle; D. Atkins

Data Warehousing Resources to Support VA Research: VA/CMS Data for Research Project (Poster)

Oct 25 5:15 PM – 7:00 PM

L. Kok; K. de Groot; M. Brown; D. Kan; K. Stroupe; G. Brown; S. Eisen; D. Hynes

DATA AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

2. Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW) Update

The CDW SharePoint URL changed August 10, 2011. To access CDW and to update your bookmark, visit the CDW's Intranet SharePoint site.

The Corporate Date Warehouse (CDW) is soliciting feedback about CDW data or processes for data use. There are two avenues for researchers to submit concerns or suggestions. Both are accessible through the Request & Feedback section of CDW's Intranet SharePoint site.

- CDW Forum invites researchers to leave comments or concerns and join in existing dialog.
- Data Suggestions allows researchers to submit a request about data such as adding new data elements or domains.

To access CDW Requests and Feedback, go to the CDW's Intranet SharePoint site and select CDW Support, Requests & Feedback from the horizontal menu bar.

3. DCG FY2011 QTR3 File is Available at the AITC

FY2011 QTR3 DCG data, RMTPRD.MED.DCG.RISK.SMART231.FY11Q3, is now available on the mainframe at the Austin Information Technology Center (AITC).

Additional information on DCG risk scores is available in VIREC's *Data Issues Brief*, July 2010, available at <http://www.virec.research.va.gov/References/DataIssuesBrief/2010/DIB-1007er.pdf>.

For more information, contact Sophie Lo (Sophie.lo@va.gov) or Mei-Ling Shen (Mei-ling.shen@va.gov) at VSSC.

EDUCATION

4. VIReC Clinical Informatics Cyber Seminar Series

Upcoming Cyber Seminars

Characteristics of Health IT that Aid Workflow and Patient Care

September 20, 12pm Eastern

(Note: the date of this seminar has been changed from September 13 to September 20.)

Alissa Russ, PhD

Alissa L. Russ is a Research Scientist at Roudebush VA Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D) Center of Excellence on Implementing Evidence-based Practice (CIEBP) and at Regenstrief Institute. Dr. Russ is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor with Purdue University College of Pharmacy.

Recently Archived Presentations

Web-Enhanced Guideline Implementation for Post-Myocardial Infarction CBOC Patients

Researchers may visit VIReC's website to register for a seminar or to access archived presentations at <http://www.virec.research.va.gov/EducationResources/Seminars/Cyberseminars.htm>.

E-mail questions to VIReC's Clinical Informatics Cyber Seminar Coordinator, Joanne Stevens, at Joanne.Stevens@va.gov.

5. VIReC Database and Methods Cyber Seminars

Upcoming Cyber Seminars

Assessing VA Health Care Use: Outpatient

October 3, 12pm Eastern

Recently Archived Presentations

Assessing VA Health Care Use: Inpatient

Researchers may visit VIReC's website to register for a seminar or to access archived presentations at <http://www.virec.research.va.gov/EducationResources/Seminars/Cyberseminars.htm>.

E-mail questions to VIReC's Database and Methods Cyber Seminar Coordinator, Melissa Brown, at Melissa.Brown3@va.gov.

CONFERENCES & CALLS FOR ABSTRACTS

6. VA eHealth University (VeHU) 2012 – Call for Presentations

The VA eHealth University (VeHU) Planning Committee is inviting researchers to submit presentations for VeHU 2012.

VeHU is a training conference that provides education on clinical software such as VHA Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS), Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA), and VHA clinical informatics products. VeHU is requesting submissions of proposals by September 16, 2011.

To submit a proposal, go to VeHU's Intranet site and select "Call for Presentations."

7. Healthcare Data Warehousing Association 2011 Annual Conference

The Healthcare Data Warehousing Association (HDWA) annual conference will be held September 13-15 in San Diego, CA. The theme for the conference is *Monitoring the Present – Improving the Future.*

For more information about HDWA and the annual conference, visit HDWA's website at <http://hdwa.org/hdwa/home/> and register as a member.

8. American Medical Informatics Association 2011 Annual Symposium

The 2011 American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) annual symposium will be held October 22-26 in Washington, DC. The AMIA Symposium is an educational forum in clinical informatics, clinical research informatics, public health informatics, and translational bioinformatics programs.

For more information, visit AMIA's website at <https://www.amia.org/amia2011>.

9. HSR&D/QUERI 2012 National Conference – Call for Abstracts

A combined national conference for Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D) Service and the Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI) program is planned for February 2012 in the metro DC or Baltimore area. The conference theme is, "*Transforming Veteran Healthcare through Partner-Oriented Research.*" The call for abstracts is due by October 3, 2011.

For updated conference information and details regarding the call for abstracts visit HSR&D's website at <http://www.hsrn.research.va.gov/meetings/2012/default.cfm>.

HSRDATA-L LISTSERV

10. Recent HSRData-L Listserv Topics

The HSRData-L Listserv is a forum for VA researchers and data users to exchange information, ideas, questions, and answers about VA data and informatics. For those who may have missed last month's listserv discussion, subject lines include:

- Discharge medication via dss pha
- Health Factors and Type tables
- Surveying VA providers

To view these and other archived discussions, visit the HSRData-L Listserv VA Intranet site.

11. Join the Listserv

VIReC maintains the HSRData-L Listserv, which is available to researchers and data users with a "va.gov" e-mail address. To subscribe to the listserv, visit the VIReC Intranet site.

VIREC TIP OF THE MONTH

12. What is “Preparatory to Research” Data Use?

The term “preparatory to research” refers to a provision of the HIPAA Privacy Rule. This provision allows a covered entity (e.g., VA) to use or disclose personal health information (PHI) to a researcher for the purpose of developing a research protocol without the patient’s authorization, a waiver or an alteration of authorization, or a data use agreement. Under the HIPAA Privacy Rule, VA must obtain from the researcher representations that (1) the use or disclosure is requested solely to review PHI as necessary to prepare a research protocol or for similar purposes preparatory to research, (2) the PHI will not be removed from VA in the course of review, and (3) the PHI for which use or access is requested is necessary for the research.

VA policies governing activities preparatory to research are published in Handbooks 1200.05, *Requirements for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research*; 1605.1, *Privacy and Release of Information*; and 1200.12, *Use of Data and Data Repositories in VHA Research*. Procedures for obtaining authorization to access data preparatory to research may vary depending on the data source. The request process for the Medical SAS Datasets, DSS NDEs and Web reports, and CDW are posted on the National Data Systems Intranet site.

Data Issues Brief: a monthly newsletter published by the [VA Information Resource Center \(VIREC\)](#) for the purpose of informing and updating VA researchers on current and pending happenings and changes regarding health data, databases, and medical informatics.

Intended Audience: VA researchers and staff

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Intranet Versions: Call the VIREC Help Desk at 708–202–2413.

Contact Information: For comments, suggestions, or newsworthy topics that have not been addressed, call 708–202–2413 or send a message to virec@va.gov.

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