



RESEARCHERS' GUIDE TO VA DATA

VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

Data Issues Brief

July 2011

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VIReC UPDATES

1. HSRData-L Listserv: Recent 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:

- comparison between dss cost and herc cost
- Extended Care
- mapping between sta5a and sta6a

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

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 website.

DATA AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

2. DSS National Data Extract SAS File Rebuilt

DSS recreated the FY2008 PHA NDE for VISN 23 (RMTPRD.MED.DSS.SAS.FY08.VISN23.PHA) on March 28, 2011 to replace VISN field values of “14” and “22” with the accurate value, “23”. The number of records in the file did not change but 5,051,191 records previously attributed to VISN 22 as well as 3,946,468 records attributed to (former) VISN 14 are now identified as being from VISN 23. Researchers who used VISN information in this file combined with data from other VISN files may want to check their data against the new file.

3. Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW) Update

The Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW) now offers e-mail alerts to announce training opportunities and other important CDW news. Recently, a message was sent to subscribers alerting them to temporarily missing records for Region 2. Training announcements include upcoming CDW training sessions and archives of past sessions. Separate e-mail lists are maintained for training and general announcements.

CDW data users and others wishing to subscribe can sign up for training and general announcements by visiting the VA Intranet CDW SharePoint site and clicking on CDW Support, Announcements on the horizontal menu bar and clicking the subscribe button at the bottom of either the General Announcements or Training Announcements lists.

EDUCATION

4. AcademyHealth Webinar: Advances in the Use of Electronic Clinical Data for Prospective Patient Centered Outcomes Research

AcademyHealth’s Electronic Data Methods (EDM) Forum is offering a free Webinar highlighting eleven research projects that are building infrastructure and methods for collecting and analyzing prospective electronic clinical data to advance the science of comparative effectiveness research and patient centered outcomes research, as well as to improve the quality of clinical care and enhance clinical decision support. The session will be held August 17, 2011, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (Eastern).

Registration is free, but space is limited. For more information, contact edmforum@academyhealth.org.

5. VIReC Clinical Informatics Cyber Seminar Series

Upcoming Cyber Seminars

CPRS Medication Order Checks/Alerts

September 20, 12pm Eastern

Alissa Russ, PhD

Alissa L. Russ, PhD, is a core investigator with the CIEBP. Dr. Russ is a biomedical engineer and human factors engineering specialist. She completed her graduate work at Purdue University and brings a unique interdisciplinary perspective, with a background in both engineering and clinical sciences, that translates into expertise in the design of tools to enhance medical care. Dr. Russ has received numerous scholarly awards and her interests include electronic health records (EHRs), implementation, and patient safety. Her primary research focuses on computerized medication order checks (e.g., drug-drug interaction alerts) and how their design influences clinical workflow, prescriber decision-making, and medication safety.

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.

6. VIReC Database and Methods Cyber Seminars

Upcoming Seminars

Assessing VA Health Care Use: Inpatient

August 1, 1pm Eastern

Denise M. Hynes, RN, MPH, PhD

Denise Hynes is Director of the VA Information Resource Center (VIReC) and a Research Career Scientist at the Center for Management of Complex Chronic Care (CMC3) at the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital.

Recently Archived Presentations

Overview of VA Data, Information Systems, National Databases and Research Uses

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

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, including a call for posters and presentations, 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. Registration will open June 22.

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

VIReC TIP OF THE MONTH

9. PCS SharePoint Site for Data Requests

The Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) Patient Care Services' (PCS) Office of Strategic Planning and Measurement (OSPM) has launched a VA Intranet SharePoint site that contains information related to the PCS Data Transfer Agreement (DTA) procedures for requesting the use of data contained in PCS databases (datasets) for research purposes. PCS datasets include, but are not limited to, data on service areas such as geriatrics, dentistry, care coordination, mental health service, rehabilitation service, and primary care.

The entire list of PCS datasets and information about the request process is available on the OSPM VA Intranet SharePoint site.

Researchers with questions regarding PCS DTA procedures should contact Audrey Revere, Management/Analyst, PCS OSPM at audrey.revere@va.gov.

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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