



Data Issues Brief

About the DIB

The *Data Issues Brief (DIB)* is VIReC's monthly publication that informs VA researchers on current news or updates regarding health data, databases, and medical informatics.

VIReC Updates

Historical Variable Attributes for DSS Clinical NDEs

VIReC's *Historical Variable Attributes: VHA Decision Support System (DSS) National Data Extracts Datasets, FY 2004-2011*, contains current and historical variable attributes for Laboratory (LAB), Laboratory Results (LAR), Pharmacy (PHA), and Radiology (RAD) clinical National Data Extracts (NDEs).

Available on VIReC's website: www.virec.research.va.gov.

Data and Information Systems

FY2011 EOY DCG File Available at AITC

Fiscal Year 2011 (FY2011) End of Year (EOY) Diagnostic Cost Group (DCG) data, RMTPRD.MED.DCG.RISK.SMART231.FY11, is now available on the mainframe at the Austin Information Technology Center (AITC).

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

Education

VIReC Cyber Seminars

Clinical Informatics Cyber Seminars

Date	December 20, 2011	12pm Eastern
Title	<i>Relationship of Usability and Patient Safety with Health Information Technology</i>	
Author	Emily S. Patterson, PhD, Ohio State University	
Recently Archived	<i>Screening Electronic Prescription Records for Dropouts</i>	

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Database and Methods Cyber Seminar Series

Date	December 5, 2011	1pm Eastern
Title	<i>Measuring Veterans Health Services Use in VA and Medicare (Part 1)</i>	
Author	Denise M. Hynes, RN, MPH, PhD, Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital	
Recently Archived	<i>Research Access to VA Data</i>	

Register for a seminar or access archived presentations on VIREC's website: www.virec.research.va.gov. E-mail questions to VIREC's Cyber Seminar Coordinator, Margaret Browning, at Margaret.Browning@va.gov.

Now Available: Presentation Slides from HDWA Annual Conference

Presentation slides and posters from the 2011 Healthcare Data Warehousing Association (HDWA) Conference in San Diego (September 13-15) have been posted on the HDWA website. Researchers need to register as a member to access the HDWA website and view conference slides and posters.

Visit the HDWA website and click on the *Annual Conference* tab to access presentation slides: hdwa.org/hdwa/home/.

Conferences & Calls for Abstracts**2012 AcademyHealth ARM Call for Abstracts, Nov 1 – Jan 12**

AcademyHealth will host its Annual Research Meeting (ARM) June 24–26 in Orlando, FL. ARM brings together health services researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to address the critical challenges confronting the nation's health care delivery system.

Abstract submissions are due Jan 12, 2012. Details regarding themes and submission instructions are available on AcademyHealth's website:

www.academyhealth.org/Events/content.cfm?ItemNumber=842&navItemNumber=1996.

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. October's listserv discussion, subject lines included:

- Accessing FY 2006 DSS LAR NDE
- Problem with FY06 DSS pharmacy pull
- VA priority and socioeconomic status information

Join the Listserv
Visit VIREC's Intranet site to
subscribe to the listserv.

VIREC maintains the HSRData-L Listserv, which is available to researchers and data users with a "va.gov" e-mail address. Archived discussions are available on the HSRData-L Listserv Intranet site.

VIREC Tip of the Month



Why is the VHA Documents Website Relevant to Researchers?

The VHA Documents website is a virtual treasure trove of relevant information for VHA researchers. This site provides directives and guidebooks that inform researchers on the VHA policies and procedures governing data collection and reporting. Awareness of these policies and procedures is important for understanding VHA data used in research and interpreting study results. For example, if one were using DRG information for VA inpatient admissions (e.g., the 'DRG' variable in the Medical SAS Inpatient Datasets), it would be important to understand how DRGs are assigned and the standards and controls that will influence the quality of those assignments. This information can be found in VHA HANDBOOK 1907.04.

Visit the VHA Documents site at www1.va.gov/vhapublications/.

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