



# 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.

## Data & Information Systems

### New VA/CMS Data

#### *Data for All Medicaid Enrollees*

The Medicaid Person Summary data file for all Medicaid enrollees is now available for calendar years 2007 and 2008. This data file contains demographics, Medicaid enrollment, and summary utilization data for all Veterans and non-Veterans enrolled in Medicaid. VA researchers with approved projects may request these data.

#### *Public Use Data*

The following calendar year 2010 facility-level data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are now available for download:

- Facility data files to be used in conjunction with MDS (Minimum Data Set) and OASIS (Outcome and Assessment Information Set) data from CMS
- Provider of Services data file containing characteristics on institutional providers such as hospitals and nursing facilities

VIReC's VA/CMS website provides information on Medicaid and public use data as well as details on requesting VA/CMS data: [www.virec.research.va.gov/Index-VACMS.htm](http://www.virec.research.va.gov/Index-VACMS.htm).

### VA Data Access Form 9957 Now Requires Digital Signature

As of October 24, 2012, VA 9957 forms requesting access to data on the Austin Information Technology Center (AITC) mainframe for research and healthcare operations purposes must include Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) digital signatures. Rules regarding who must sign Form 9957 have not changed.

The National Data Systems (NDS) Intranet site provides more information on digitally signing 9957 forms, including digital signature instructions.

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### **Data Transition to CDW Update**

Decision Support System (DSS) National Data Extract (NDE) SAS data files will be withdrawn from the Austin Information Technology Center (AITC) mainframe March 1, 2013. However, DSS NDE data from 2005 forward are and will remain available in the Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW) as SQL tables.

Visit VIREC's "DSS NDEs Data Transition" Web page for more information: [www.virec.research.va.gov/Data-Transition/NDE-Transition.htm](http://www.virec.research.va.gov/Data-Transition/NDE-Transition.htm).

### **Medical SAS Outpatient Data File Variable Names Mapped to CDW Variables**

The National Data Systems (NDS) SAS XWalk Report maps variables from each Medical SAS Outpatient data file (SE, SF, or IE) to their VistA origins and to equivalent variables in the Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW).

Available under Reports in the NDS Section of the CDW SharePoint site.

### **VA Medical Center Station/ Suffix Modifier Assignment**

The VA Office of Financial Policy issued a new policy pertaining to station and suffix modifier (substation) assignment. The Policy is included in APPENDIX-B of *VA Financial Policy Volume II*, Chapter 1. Appendix B addresses the proper use of and procedures for assigning and managing VA station numbers and includes a table of station suffix modifiers which identify substation types.

VA Financial Policy Volumes are available on the VA Office of Finance website: [www.va.gov/finance/policy/pubs/](http://www.va.gov/finance/policy/pubs/).

The VA Site Tracking (VAST) database contains a list of all stations. The list is available from the VAST Site Tracking Reports section of the VSSC Intranet site.

### **New Data Quality Program Website**

VHA's Office of Informatics and Analytics (OIA), Health Information Governance Office (HIG) Data Quality Program launched a new version of its Intranet website. The site includes links to quarterly Data Quality Highlights Newsletters; Administrative Data Quality Council Tips of the Month; a Data Steward List, including contacts for single information domains; and a VA Facility Alternate Names List.

### **Best Practices Guide: Race Data**

The *Best Practices Guide: Race Data* developed by the VHA's Data Quality Analysis (DQA) Team presents a comparison of race data in the Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW) and the Administrative Data Repository Reporting Production (ADRRP) database. It includes SQL code for creating and populating views to support race mapping in CDW and other CDW queries as well as SQL code for some ADRRP queries.

Available from the VHA Data Quality Program's Intranet site.

## Education

### VIREC Cyber Seminars

#### Clinical Informatics Cyber Seminars

<b>Date</b>	January 15, 2013	12pm Eastern
<b>Title</b>	<i>9 Factors that Influence Prescribers' Response to Alerts at the Point-of-Care: Implications for VA Order Check Design</i>	
<b>Presenters</b>	Alissa L. Russ, PhD, Roudebush VA Medical Center	

#### Database and Methods Cyber Seminar Series

<b>Date</b>	February 4, 2013	1pm Eastern
<b>Title</b>	<i>Research Access to VA Data</i>	
<b>Presenter</b>	Linda Kok, MA, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital	

Register for a seminar or access archived presentations on VIREC's website: [www.virec.research.va.gov/CyberSeminars/Overview.htm](http://www.virec.research.va.gov/CyberSeminars/Overview.htm).

E-mail questions to VIREC's Cyber Seminar Coordinator, Margaret Browning, at [Margaret.Browning@va.gov](mailto:Margaret.Browning@va.gov).

## Conferences & Calls for Abstracts

### 2013 AcademyHealth ARM Call for Abstracts Closes January 17

The 2013 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting (ARM) call for abstracts closes January 17. AcademyHealth brings together health services researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to address the critical challenges confronting the nation's health care delivery system.

Visit AcademyHealth's website for updates regarding abstract submission: [www.academyhealth.org/Events/content.cfm?ItemNumber=842&navItemNumber=1996](http://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. Last month's subject lines included:

- MedSAS Inpatient types - Observational, Extended Care
- Fee Basis Variables in CDW
- MedSAS vs. CDW query of DRGs

**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.

This newsletter is provided by the VA Information Resource Center (VIREC).

**Subscriptions**

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