



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

VistA Resource Guide

VIREC Resource Guide: VistA describes VistA's origins, structure, content and utility. This guide is an excellent starting point for new researchers and others considering using data extracted from VA's VistA system.

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

VIREC Tutorial on Using VistAWeb

The VIREC tutorial, *Using VistAWeb for the First Time*, provides step by step instructions on using VistAWeb to access a patient's read-only electronic health record (EHR). Topics include: the access request process, logging in, selecting a patient, and locating data elements.

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

Data & Information Systems

USRDS Data Now Available from VIREC

The VA/CMS Data for Research Project at VIREC is pleased to announce data from the United States Renal Data System (USRDS) are now available. These data contain information about individuals with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD). USRDS data are available by request for VA researchers with approved projects.

Visit the VA/CMS Data for Research website for more information about USRDS data available from VIREC and requesting VA/CMS data: www.virec.research.va.gov/Index-VACMS.htm.

In this Issue

VIREC Updates

- *VistA Resource Guide*
- *VIREC Tutorial on Using VistAWeb*

Data & Information Systems

- *USRDS Data Now Available from VIREC*
- *Availability of FY12 DSS NDE SAS Datasets*
- *Changes to ICD-9, HCPCS (Level II), and HCPCS Modifier Codes*
- *Gender Specific Changes to PTF*
- *VAST Transition to the VSSC*
- *New Person Class Code in SAS Format Library*

Education

- *VIREC Cyber Seminars*
- *SEER-Medicare Training, November 15-16*

Conferences & Calls for Abstracts

- *American Medical Informatics Association Annual Symposium, November 3-7*

HSRData-L Listserv

- *Recent Topics*

Availability of FY12 DSS NDE SAS Datasets

Fiscal year 2012 (FY12) Decision Support System (DSS) National Data Extract (NDE) SAS datasets will be available on the Austin Information Technology Center (AITC) mainframe by the end of November. As part of the data transition to the Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW), it is estimated that these along with all other DSS NDE SAS datasets will be withdrawn from the AITC mainframe in January 2013.

VIREC will post the exact dates on our website as soon they are available: www.virec.research.va.gov/.

Additional information about the DSS NDE data transition to the CDW is available on VIREC's "DSS NDE Transition Process" page: www.virec.research.va.gov/Data-Transition/NDE-Process.htm.

Changes to ICD-9, HCPCS (Level II), and HCPCS Modifier Codes

Changes to ICD-9-CM, HCPCS (Level II) and HCPCS modifier code lists on the Austin Information Technology Center (AITC) mainframe implemented in May include:

- (1) 10 new codes
- (2) 39 revised codes
- (3) 24 inactivated codes

The *Q312_(CPTMOD-CPT-ICD)_(2)(1)* attachment provides detailed information on changes to the code list. Available from the "Audit Trail of Changes" on NPCD's Intranet site.

These updates will be reflected in ICD-9-CM and HCPCS code values in the Medical SAS and other datasets for encounters in the latter part of FY12 Quarter 3 going forward, the exact date depending on when the software patch was installed in each VistA system.

Gender Specific Changes to PTF

Edits previously applied to Patient Treatment File (PTF) data transmitted to Austin which rejected records containing ICD-9 diagnosis or procedure codes for male genitourinary conditions when the patient sex was female have been discontinued. The change was made to accommodate the accurate use of those codes for transgender patients.

The *Transgender Codes DX and Surgery Codes* attachment provides a listing and description of the codes which have had the gender specific designation removed. Available from the "Audit Trail of Changes" on NPCD's Intranet site.

These codes can be summarized as the following: ICD-9 diagnosis codes 098.12, 185, 222.2, 233.4, 236.5, V10.46, V16.42, V76.44, V84.03, 600.xx, 601.x, 602.x, and 790.93; ICD-9 procedure codes 60.xx (except 60.13, 60.14, 60.19, and 60.7x), 87.92, and 88.95.

VAST Transition to the VSSC

The VAST database contains information on VHA service sites and the types of services each site provides. This system will transition ownership from the Planning Systems Support Group (PSSG) to the VHA Support Service Center (VSSC) on October 1, 2012. The transition will allow users to electronically submit new requests, access reports, and obtain customized data extracts.

Researchers should contact the VAST HelpDesk at VASTTestAdmins@va.gov for more information about the transition.

New Person Class Code in SAS Format Library

The following Person Class code has been added to the VHA Person Class Taxonomy [format: code | type | class | specialization]:

- 082201 | Other Service | Genetic Counselor | Genetics

The PROV1-PROV10 provider type fields of the Medical SAS Outpatient Event and Inpatient Encounters Datasets contain the Person Class code assigned to the provider(s) for that encounter. Several Decision Support System National Data Extracts also contain Person Class codes in provider type fields.

National Data Systems (NDS) has updated the SAS format library to reflect this addition.

The *Person Class Taxonomy* spreadsheet on NPCD's Intranet site reflects this update.

Education

VIREC Cyber Seminars

Clinical Informatics Cyber Seminars

Date	October 16, 2012	12pm Eastern
Topic	<i>A Patient-Centered Approach to Improve Screening for the Metabolic Side Effects of Second-Generation Antipsychotic Medications</i>	
Presenter	Julie Kreyenbuhl, PharmD, PhD, Baltimore VA Medical Center	

Database and Methods Cyber Seminar Series

Date	October 1, 2012	1pm Eastern
Title	<i>Overview of VA Data, Information Systems, National Databases and Research Uses</i>	
Presenter	Denise M. Hynes, MPH, PhD, RN, 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.

E-mail questions to VIREC's Cyber Seminar Coordinator, Margaret Browning, at Margaret.Browning@va.gov.

SEER-Medicare Training, November 15–16

The National Cancer Institute's annual two day training course for SEER-Medicare data users will be held on November 15–16, 2012, in Rockville, MD. This free course will also be video cast for those unable to attend in-person.

E-mail Elaine Yanisko at IMS (yaniskoe@imsweb.com) to be notified when registration for the course is open.

The "Items of Interest" box on the SEER-Medicare homepage will post additional information about the course as it becomes available: healthservices.cancer.gov/seermedicare/.

Conferences & Calls for Abstracts

American Medical Informatics Association Annual Symposium, November 3–7

The American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) Annual Symposium will be held November 3–7, 2012, in Chicago IL. The conference theme is *Informatics: Transforming Health and Healthcare*.

Visit AMIA’s website to view the meeting events and register to attend: www.amia.org/amia2012.

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:

- Identifying hospice care
- Medical chart abstraction software
- Seeking information on best approach to prescription location identification

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

To subscribe or unsubscribe from this newsletter, e-mail virec@va.gov.

Suggested Citation

VA Information Resource Center. VIREC *Data Issues Brief* (September 2012). U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Health Services Research and Development Service, VA Information Resource Center.

VA Information Resource Center

Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital
Routing mail code: 151V
5000 South 5th Avenue
Hines, IL 60141-5000
virec@va.gov
www.virec.research.va.gov

VIREC is supported by HSR&D grant SDR 98-004.