VIReC RESEARCH USER GUIDE:

FY2002 VHA MEDICAL SAS® INPATIENT DATASETS

VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

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VIReC Research User Guide: FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Inpatient Datasets
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I. Introduction

VIReC Research User Guide: FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Inpatient Datasets* was produced by the Veterans Affairs Information Resource Center (VIReC), a national resource center of the Health Services Research and Development Service (HSR&D), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This edition of the guide describes the Fiscal Year (FY) 2002 Medical SAS Datasets for inpatient care in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). VIReC issues this guide to assist health services researchers and other users of these data in understanding the availability and definitions of the stored variables within the datasets. The guide also addresses special topics, such as dataset closeouts, quality of selected variables, and issues that may affect researchers' use of VA data.

The first edition by VIReC of a research user guide to VHA inpatient care data was issued in March 2000 and described the FY1999 Medical SAS Datasets.[1] A companion guide to VHA outpatient care data was issued,[2] and updated guides and select variable frequencies have been produced.[3-8] The VIReC research user guides grew from the work by Martha Beattie, Ph.D., Ralph W. Swindle, Ph.D., Lynn A. Tomko, B.A., and other authors of the five-volume *Department of Veterans Affairs Database Resources Guide*,[9] often referred to as "the Blue Books". The VA HSR&D Service supported the creation of the Blue Books through the Service Directed Research project #91-009 awarded to Ralph Swindle.

Using the Guide

This guide is divided into six chapters, including "Introduction." The other five chapters are listed below. Additional documents are included as appendices.

- **Overview of the FY2002 Medical SAS Inpatient Datasets.** Chapter II provides a brief description of each of the current datasets including naming conventions, sort order, and observation (record) and variable counts.

- **FY2002 VHA Medical SAS Inpatient Datasets: Variables & Their Dataset Locations.** Chapter III is a table of all variables in the FY2002 Inpatient Datasets indicating in which datasets each variable occurs. A comprehensive listing of all historic inpatient variables is in Appendix A.

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- **Special Data Topics.** Chapter IV provides information on special topics (e.g., dataset closeouts) and use of selected, specific variables (e.g., Scrambled Social Security Number).

- **Variable One-Page Descriptions.** Chapter V presents a one-page description for each variable in the datasets for this fiscal year. The description includes a table with the following information, when applicable.

Data Type:	This indicates if the variable is numeric or character.
Print Format:	This is the name of the print format, if there is one. The print format name is from the Format Library for the file. Date variables have SAS-defined print formats.
Label:	This is the label for the variable as it appears in the Medical SAS dataset.
Datasets / Fiscal Years:	This indicates the Medical SAS Datasets and Fiscal Years where the variable occurs.
VISTA Data Source:	This is the file and field where data for the variable originate in the VA's decentralized clinical database, known as VISTA (Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture). In VISTA, files are identified by both a number and a name (e.g., "PTF [45] file"), while fields are identified by name (e.g., "Type of disposition field"). VISTA comprises many software applications which utilize more than 1,940 files that include more than 44,960 data fields in total. Detailed information about the VISTA applications is available online at the VISTA Document Library (http://www.va.gov/vdl). An issue of *VIReC Insights* (Vol. 3, No. 1) on VISTA is available at the VIReC Web site (http://www.virec.research.va.gov/insights.htm).

  Where applicable, and where space allows, a second table lists the values that the variable can assume with a description of each value. In cases where the possible values exceed the space available, this table is in Appendix C. For selected variables, the reader is given a reference source to obtain the possible values and their descriptions.

- **Works Cited.** Chapter VI lists publications referred to earlier in the guide. This is in contrast to Appendix E, "Selected Bibliography," which provides references for published reports of research that utilized the Medical SAS Inpatient Datasets.

Methods for Updating

VIReC uses numerous sources of information to update this guide. Official records of changes to the Medical SAS Datasets are maintained by the Austin Automation Center (AAC) in a section of its National Patient Care Database (NPCD) Customer Web site. This audit trail, which tracks changes to the inpatient and outpatient databases and to the SAS datasets, can be found on the VA Intranet at [redacted]. Notices of changes are often announced by the AAC and NPCD staff on the HSRData listserv, an e-mail group that includes researchers, policy makers, and information managers. Information about HSRData is available on the VIReC Web site, http://www.virec.research.va.gov.

In preparing the guide for FY2002 data, VIReC was able to check the VISTA data source for many variables against tables being developed by the National Data Systems (NDS) division of the VHA Office of Information's Information Assurance Service. We will continue to check this information as the NDS proceeds with its work, and any changes to the information in this guide will be reflected in future editions.

Editorial changes to the guide were made by VIReC staff in response to specific user requests and in a general effort to improve the readability and usefulness of the guide. In this respect, questions submitted to the VIReC Help Desk were reviewed to identify issues that need clarification or expansion. Issues discussed on HSRData were considered as well. Finally, our own experience as users of the Medical SAS datasets also prompted us to modify content and style of the information included here.

An early draft of the guide was reviewed for accuracy and clarity by an *ad hoc* group of individuals who are data stewards, data managers, and end users. The invaluable contribution of the reviewers this year is acknowledged in the following section.

Acknowledgements

The Veterans Affairs Information Resource Center (VIReC) is supported by Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D) Service Grant SDR 98-004.

This guide is the product of many people's efforts, experiences, and insights. The contributing authors at VIReC included Phil Colin, Denise M. Hynes, George Joseph, Linda Kok, Patricia A. Murphy, Ruth Perrin, Chris Schneiderman, and Min-Woong Sohn. April Kopp helped in editing and putting final touches to the guide, and Cody Tilson designed the cover.

Reviewers for the guide this year included the following data stewards and users whose affiliation are listed for identification purposes:

Mazen Abdellatif, M.S.	Hines VA Cooperative Studies Program Coordinating Center
Paul Barnett, Ph.D.	Health Economics Resource Center
Magdalena Berger, M.P.H.	Health Economics Resource Center
Diane Cowper, M.A.	Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center
Elizabeth Franchi, R.H.I.A.	Office of Information Assurance
Jenie Perry, B.S.	Austin Automation Center
Ciaran Phibbs, Ph.D.	Health Economics Resource Center
John Quinn, B.S.	Office of Information Assurance, National Data Systems
Todd Wagner, Ph.D.	Health Economics Resource Center

VIReC accepts responsibility for any deficiencies in the current guide and welcomes suggestions for improving this resource to better meet the needs of research users.

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II. Overview of the FY2002 VHA Medical SAS Inpatient Datasets

Background

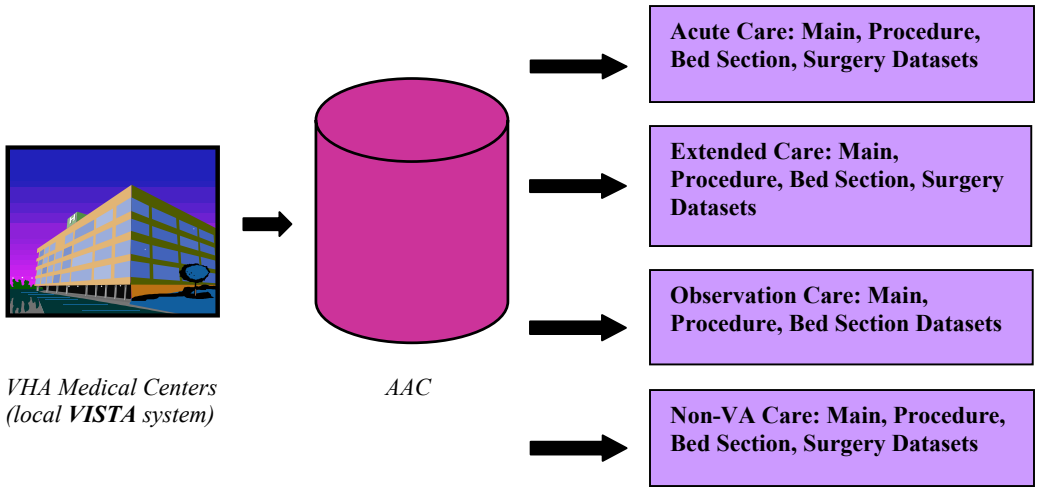
The health care utilization information for inpatient stays in VA hospitals or treatment facilities is recorded by staff members in VA treatment facilities across the United States and Puerto Rico through the use of a uniform set of coding instructions, software, and data files. The treatment facility databases that initially hold these data are known as the local VISTA (Veterans Health Information Systems and Technologies Architecture) systems. The data are electronically transferred to the Austin Automation Center (AAC) in Austin, Texas, which is the central repository for VHA national databases. AAC staff create SAS datasets for both inpatient and outpatient care. General information about the VHA Medical SAS Datasets has been published elsewhere.[10]

The SAS datasets are available to users who have appropriate access clearance. Appendix D presents information about requesting access to these datasets, as well as basic information about job control language (JCL) and submitting programs to the mainframe computer in Austin.

The data structures for the inpatient datasets have remained fairly stable over the past seven years, although the data collection processes and policies have changed somewhat since 1995. The current policy is for the transmission of inpatient records from the facilities to the AAC upon admission, discharge, and transfer. This is a change from the previous processes, which only transmitted information upon patient discharge. The current requirement within the VHA treatment facilities for entering data to be transferred to the AAC is that records for the current month will be transmitted by the 19th of the following month. Although VISTA data are transmitted to the AAC nightly, the SAS datasets are updated every two weeks. The datasets are available on a quarterly basis; the quarterly file is cumulative and, thus, provides the fiscal year's data through that quarter. The records in a given fiscal year's Medical SAS Inpatient Datasets are for patients discharged during the period, and the records include data for the full stay even if admission was in a prior year. An exception to this is possible in the Non-VA Care datasets if the facility receives a claim in, say, FY2002 for care that was provided in FY2001; in this case, the information would be part of the FY2002 data.

As illustrated in the following figure, there currently are four SAS datasets, conventionally referred to as "Main," "Bed Section," "Procedure," and "Surgery," for Acute Care, Extended Care, Observation Care, and Non-VA Care, while "Main," "Bed Section," and "Procedure" datasets are available for Observation Care.

Data Flow from the VHA Medical Centers to the Austin Automation Center (AAC) to the Medical SAS Inpatient Datasets



The Medical SAS Inpatient Datasets for acute care generally are referred to as "the Inpatient Data," "the inpatient utilization data," "the Patient Treatment File," or just "PTF." The Extended Care datasets contain records for inpatient stays paid for by the VA that occur in domiciliaries, VA nursing homes, or community nursing homes. Observation Care datasets contain data on hospital stays (generally less than 24 hours) for monitoring, evaluation, or assessment prior to inpatient admission or assignment to care in another setting. (See VHA Directive 98-025, "Recording Observation and/or Short-Stay Patients") Non-VA Care datasets have data on care funded by the VA and provided in non-VA hospitals.

This guide is focused on the acute care datasets, but it can be used as data documentation for the non-acute inpatient datasets as well. With a few exceptions, the four types of inpatient datasets are virtually identical in data structure and variable names.

Inpatient Dataset Names By Type of Care

Type of Care	Names for Main, Bed Section, Procedure, & Surgery Datasets
Acute Inpatient	MDPPRD.MDP.SAS. (PMyy, PByy, PPyy, and PSyy)
Extended	MDPPRD.MDP.SAS. (XMyy, XByy, XPyy, and XSyy)
Observation	MDPPRD.MDP.SAS. (PMOyy, PBOyy, and PPOyy)
Non-VA	MDPPRD.MDP.SAS. (NMyy, NByy, NPyy, and NSyy)

Note: yy = the last two digits of the Fiscal Year.

For a comprehensive listing of all historic names of Inpatient Datasets, see Appendix B.

Characteristics of FY2002 Acute Care Inpatient Datasets

Dataset	Record Definition	# Records	# Variables	Sort Order
Main	The patient's entire inpatient stay	563,209	79	SCRSSN ADMITDAY ADTIME DISDAY STA3N SRTKEY
Procedure	Up to five procedures performed at a given time on a given day of the inpatient stay	759,313	27	SCRSSN ADMITDAY ADTIME DISDAY STA3N SRTKEY PSEQ
Bed Section	Care provided by a given treating specialty during the inpatient stay	747,840	52	SCRSSN ADMITDAY ADTIME DISDAY STA3N SRTKEY BSSQ
Surgery	Up to 5 surgeries performed in a main or specialized operating room at a given time on a given day during the inpatient stay	109,396	30	SCRSSN ADMITDAY ADTIME DISDAY STA3N SRTKEY SGSQ

In the Main Dataset, discharge date determines the fiscal year dataset in which a stay is recorded.

In the Procedure Dataset, an additional record is created as needed for procedures performed at other date / time combinations during the stay; each subsequent record also records up to five procedures. Inpatient procedures are coded using the ICD-9-CM[11] coding schema, while procedures in the Outpatient Datasets are coded using the CPT-4[12] coding schema. Inpatient procedures are defined as non-operative procedures that are not performed in an operating room or under anesthesia. A procedure performed in a surgical suite or operating room is recorded as a surgery. Thus, a "procedure" in one facility may be a "surgery" in another facility due to different layouts in surgical suites.

The Bed Section Dataset provides a record of the diagnostic and length of stay information for each bedsection within the length of stay. Bed Section was added to the national datasets in FY1984. Individual programs of care (Infectious Disease, Mental Health) appear to have had their influence on the development of Bed Section Datasets. Several variables that provide a measure of patient overall health status, though unrelated to a particular episode of care, are available on bed section records and nowhere else. For example, a suicide indicator, name of a specific drug being abused, and treatment of Legionnaire's Disease are recorded here. The Bed Section Dataset also includes Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) scores, which comprise Axis V of the American Psychiatric Association's multi-Axis diagnostic system.[13]

The Surgery Dataset has information collected from each hospital's management information system (VISTA) about each episode of care in VA Medical Centers, Non-VA Hospitals (at VA expense), VA Nursing Home Care Units, VA Domiciliaries, and Contract Community Nursing Homes. Records are produced following discharge and are stored by the fiscal year of discharge. This dataset began in FY1984. Prior to that time, surgical information was a part of the Main Dataset.

Dataset Closeouts

Most research users of the Medical SAS Datasets utilize the datasets of fiscal year data. The annual datasets are accumulated or constructed over time, as noted below. Throughout a given fiscal year, the data in the Medical SAS Datasets change as edits, updates, and additional record entries are performed at the transmitting medical center. The policy for transmission of data states that the previous month's encounters will be completely forwarded to the AAC by the 19th of the current month. This policy, sometimes called the reimbursement closeout because of its association with cost recovery deadlines, does not mean that data are not transmitted after this period. The AAC will accept inpatient information until its fiscal year closeout on October 19. The AAC, at their own discretion in order to maintain accurate records, has allowed the field to re-submit all of the fiscal year data at the end of the fiscal year. For the research user, when to extract data will depend on the specific use of the data, but, in general, researchers are advised to use the annual datasets.

Datasets Produced Quarterly

Each of the Medical SAS Inpatient Datasets is produced in smaller subsets that are stored on a quarterly basis during the fiscal year. These datasets are rolled into a yearly dataset at the fiscal year's end. In general, the naming convention for these quarterly datasets is the dataset name followed by QTR*n* (where *n* is the number 1–4 representing the fiscal quarter). For a complete listing of the quarterly SAS dataset names, refer to Appendix B.

Datasets Kept Open for Revision

In FY2001, it was determined that a new set of "revised" Medical SAS datasets would be created to allow for updates to continue after the traditional annual dataset closeout period ends. These revised datasets can receive updates for approximately two years after the regular closeout period. A major factor behind this decision was the desire to allow for the capture of workload that was traditionally lost due to late submission after closeout. The names of the "revised" datasets are the same as the traditional ones with the word "REVISED" added (e.g., MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.PM01). For a complete listing of the revised SAS dataset names and the fiscal years that they cover, refer to Appendix B. In general, researchers are advised to not use the revised datasets, because, by their very nature, these datasets will not always give the same results.

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III. FY2002 VHA Medical SAS Inpatient Datasets: Variables and Their Dataset Locations

Name	Definition	Main	Bed Section	Surgery	Procedure	Page
ABO	Number of days on pass logged during an inpatient stay	X				26
ADMITDAY	Date of admission of the inpatient stay	X	X	X	X	27
ADMITMO	Month of admission of the inpatient stay	X				28
ADMITYR	Year of admission of the inpatient stay	X				29
ADTIME	Time of admission of the inpatient stay	X	X	X	X	30
AFIX	Indication of whether the admission was to a substation of the parent hospital	X				31
AGE	Patient age in years at discharge	X				32
AGOCARE	Indication of whether the care given during the admission is related to exposure to Agent Orange	X	X			33
AG15Y	Categorical recoding of AGE (Age In Years) into 15 groupings	X				34
AG8R	Categorical recoding of AGE (Patient age in years at discharge) into 8 groupings	X				35
ANESTEK	Principal anesthetic technique for the patient's surgery			X		36
AOR	Patient self-report of Exposure to Agent Orange	X				37
ASIH*	Number of days a patient is in Absent Sick In Hospital (ASIH) status	X				38
AXIS4B	Degree of severity of psychosocial stress		X			39
AXIS51B	The most recent Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) recorded for the patient while an inpatient		X			40
AXIS52B	The highest Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) score recorded for the patient while an inpatient		X			41
BEDCDR	The Cost Distribution Reporting (CDR) code for the bedsection		X			42

Name	Definition	Main	Bed Section	Surgery	Procedure	Page
BEDSECN	Specialty code of the physician who manages the patient's care during all or a portion of the inpatient stay		X		X	43
BORNDAY	Date of patient's birth	X				44
BORNYEAR	Four-digit year of birth of the patient	X				45
BOS	Bed occupancy status at discharge	X				46
BSINDAY	Date that the patient was admitted to the bedsection		X			47
BSOUTDAY	Date that the patient was discharged from the bedsection		X			48
BSOUTIME	Time of transfer out of the bedsection		X			49
BSSQ	Sequential number of the record (SAS observation) with bedsection information for the inpatient stay		X			50
BSTA6A	Substation identifier of the bedsection		X			51
CP	Compensation and Pension status	X				52
DBEDSECT	Bedsection at discharge	X				53
DIALTYP	Type of dialysis treatment				X	54
DISDAY	Date of discharge for the entire inpatient stay	X	X	X	X	55
DISMO	Month of discharge	X				56
DISTIME	Time of discharge	X	X	X	X	57
DISTO	Type of location to which patient was discharged	X				58
DISTYPE	Type of discharge	X	X	X	X	59
DISYR	Two-digit calendar year of discharge for the entire episode of care	X				60
DOD	Date of death	X				61
DRG	Diagnosis Related Group	X				62
DRGB	DRG for bedsection		X			63
DRUGB	Specific drug with which the patient has a substance abuse problem		X			64
DXB2–DXB5	Secondary ICD-9-CM diagnostic codes that apply to the bedsection stay		X			65
DXF2–DXF10	Secondary ICD-9-CM diagnostic codes for full hospital stay	X				66
DXLSB	ICD-9-CM diagnostic code responsible for the length of stay within the bedsection		X			67

Name	Definition	Main	Bed Section	Surgery	Procedure	Page
DXLSB32	Categorical recoding of DXLSB (ICD-9-CM diagnostic code responsible for the length of stay within the bedsection)		X			68
DXLSB120	Categorical recoding of DXLSB (ICD-9-CM diagnostic code responsible for the length of stay within the bedsection)		X			69
DXLSF	ICD-9-CM diagnostic code responsible for the major part of the patient's full length of stay in the hospital	X	X	X	X	70
DXLSF32	Categorical recoding of DXLSF (ICD-9-CM diagnostic code responsible for the major part of the patient's full length of stay in the hospital)	X	X	X	X	71
DXLSF120	Categorical recoding of DXLSF (ICD-9-CM diagnostic code responsible for the major part of the patient's full length of stay in the hospital)	X	X	X	X	72
DXPRIME	ICD-9-CM diagnostic code for the principal diagnosis	X	X	X		73
ENVCARE	Indication of whether the patient was exposed to environmental contaminants	X	X			74
FYDIS	The 2-digit fiscal year of the discharge derived from the variable DISDAY (Date of discharge for the entire inpatient stay)	X				75
HOMECNTY	County of patient’s residence	X				76
HOMEPSA	VHA Medical center that identifies the patient’s home residence	X				77
HOMEVISN	Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) associated with the veteran’s home residence	X				78
HOMSTATE	State associated with the veteran’s residence	X				79
INCOME	Calculation of the patient’s recorded income	X				80
IRDCARE	Indication of whether the patient received radiation treatment while in this bedsection	X	X			81
LEGIONB	Indication of whether the patient was treated for Legionnaire’s Disease while in this bedsection		X			82
LS	Number of bed days for the entire episode of care	X	X			83
LSB	Number of bed days for the bedsection of care		X			84
LSBR	Categorical recoding of the LSB (Number of bed days for the bedsection of care) variable into 16 groupings		X			85

Name	Definition	Main	Bed Section	Surgery	Procedure	Page
LSR	Categorical recoding of the LS (Number of bed days for the entire episode of care) variable into 16 groupings	X				86
LVB	Number of days on leave from the bedsection		X			87
MDC	Major diagnostic category of the DRG	X				88
MDCB	Major diagnostic category of the bedsection DRG		X			89
MEANS	Means Test Indicator Code	X				90
MS	Patient's marital status	X				91
NBS	Number of bed sections in the Bed Section dataset for this discharge	X	X			92
NCODES	Number of ICD-9-CM procedure codes within the record				X	93
NDXB	Number of ICD-9-CM diagnoses codes in the Bed Section dataset record		X			94
NDXM	Number of ICD-9-CM diagnoses codes in the Main dataset record	X				95
NPROC	Number of records (or segments) in the Procedure dataset associated with the patient's entire length of stay	X	X		X	96
NSURG	Number of records (or segments) in the Surgery dataset associated with the patient's entire length of stay	X	X	X		97
NTREAT	Number of dialysis treatments of a given type				X	98
NVASURG	Source of payment for surgery in non-VA facility			X		99
NXFER	Number of records in Bed Section Dataset with bedsection stay information	X	X			100
OPT	Indicator that the discharge is to outpatient treatment	X				101
PASS	Number of days on pass during entire stay	X				102
PASSB	Number of days on pass during bedsection stay		X			103
PLBED	Physical location of patient's bed		X			104
PLCDR	Cost Distribution Report account number for physical location of bed at discharge	X				105
PLCDRB	Cost Distribution Report account number for bedsection of the physical location of bed		X			106
PLDISCH	Bedsection code for physical location at discharge	X				107
POW	Prisoner of War status with name of war and location	X				108

Name	Definition	Main	Bed Section	Surgery	Procedure	Page
PROCDAY	Date of procedure or procedures performed at a given date and time combination				X	109
PROCDE1–PROCDE5	ICD-9-CM Procedure Codes for 1st –5th procedures performed on a given date and time				X	110
PROCTIME	Starting time for the procedure or procedures performed on a given date and time				X	111
PSEQ	Sequential number of the record (SAS observation) with procedure information for a given date and time of the inpatient stay				X	112
PSEUD	Pseudo-SSN indicator	X				113
PSRCD	Categorical recode of Period of Service	X				114
PSX	Period of service that is basis for care	X				115
RACE	Race or national origin	X				116
RAD	Exposure to Ionizing Radiation through nuclear testing or in Japan	X				117
SCI	Indication of patient's spinal cord injury status	X	X			118
SCPER	Percentage of the patient's disability that is service-connected with respect to DXLSF (ICD-9-CM diagnostic code responsible for the major part of the patient's full length of stay in the hospital)	X				119
SCRSSN	Scrambled Social Security Number	X	X	X	X	120
SEX	Sex of patient	X				121
SGR1	Categorical recode of SURG9CD1 (First surgical procedure code for the operation)			X		122
SGSQ	Sequential number of the record (SAS observation) containing the surgeries performed on a given date/time			X		123
SOURCE	Source of admission	X				124
SRTKEY	Sort key	X	X	X	X	125
SSTA6A	Identifier of the substation where surgery was performed			X		126
STA3N	Parent station identifier	X		X	X	127
STA6A	Substation identifier	X			X	128
STAFROM	Source station (if transferred)	X				129
STATYP*	Station type					130
SUICIDEB	Suicide indicator		X			131

Name	Definition	Main	Bed Section	Surgery	Procedure	Page
SURG9CD1–SURG9CD5	1st – 5th ICD-9-CM procedure codes			X		132
SURGDAY	Date of surgery			X		133
SURGNAST	Identifier of the employment status / category of the first surgical assistant			X		134
SURGNCAT	Identifier of the category of team of surgeons			X		135
SURGSPEC	Identifier of the surgical specialty of the chief surgeon or resident			X		136
SURGTIME	Time of surgery			X		137
SVCCONB	Indicates whether the condition being treated within the bedsection is service connected		X			138
TOSTA6A	Receiving station (if transferred)	X				139
TSTAT	Kidney donor status			X		140
UPDATDAY	Last date record updated	X				141
VAAUS	Discharge to VA auspices	X				142
VISN	Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) where the hospital episode of care occurred	X	X	X	X	143
ZIP	Zip code	X				144

*Variables not in the Inpatient Acute Care Datasets. ASIH is in the Extended Care Main Dataset, and STATYP is in the Extended Care and Non-VA Main, Bed Section, Procedure, and Surgery Datasets.

IV. Special Data Topics

This section presents information that cuts across individual variables or relates to a single variable but goes beyond what can be covered in the one-page description of the variable. The information here is necessarily brief. VIReC welcomes suggestions of topics for expanded attention in the form of *VIReC Insights* or peer-reviewed published manuscripts. Proposals of possible collaboration are also welcome.

Scrambled vs. Real Social Security Number

Beginning with FY1986, the patient identifier in the Medical SAS Datasets became an encrypted or scrambled Social Security Number (variable SCRSSN). (Prior to FY1986, the actual or real SSN was used.) SCRSSN is not a random assignment; rather, it is a consistent formula manipulation of a real SSN. That is, a given real SSN is always assigned the same SCRSSN, and a patient's records can be linked across years and across the Medical SAS Datasets for various types of care.

Special "cross-reference" SAS datasets for a given fiscal year are available that contain real SSNs for all activity, including acute (non-extended care), extended care, observation care, non-VA care, and census data. These files can be merged with the Medical SAS Datasets to link data to real SSNs. Descriptions of the cross-reference datasets are on the NPCD VA Intranet Web site at: [redacted].
Users can make requests for access to the cross-reference datasets to the Information Security Officer (ISO) at their VA facility or, for users not affiliated with a VA facility, to the VHA Freedom of Information Act Officer (http://www.va.gov/foia/offices.asp).

Procedure and Surgery Coding

Since FY1980, all inpatient diagnoses and procedures are coded using the International Classification of Diseases Ninth Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM). (Prior to FY1980 the ICD-8-CM coding schema was used.) This is different from outpatient data coding, which utilizes the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT-4) schema developed by the American Medical Association (AMA). The differentiation between a surgery and a procedure is the location where it was performed. Procedures performed in a main or specialized operating room are recorded as surgeries and are stored in the Medical SAS Surgery datasets. Procedures performed anywhere else are stored in the Medical SAS Procedure datasets.

Surgical procedures coded with CPT-4 are also collected for a national database in the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP). Staff nurses enter the NSQIP data using a VISTA software application that operates independently of the VISTA

Surgery software package. Information about the NSQIP is available at the following Web site: http://nsqip.org.

Veteran's Income

The VHA Medical SAS Datasets are not a definitive source of data on patients' incomes. This issue is a good reminder that the information in the VHA Medical SAS Datasets is collected for administrative, and not research, purposes. Administratively, the issue of patients' income is relevant to establishing eligibility for care for some veterans.

The variable MEANS (Means Test Indicator) might be seen as a categorical classification of incomes, but it should be examined carefully in light of the researcher's needs. For example, some veterans are eligible for mandatory care regardless of their income and, therefore, do not complete a Means Test. This group includes veterans classified as having 10% or more service-connected disability, former POWs, WWI veterans, and veterans without service-connected disability who are receiving a VA pension. When a Means Test is necessary to establish eligibility for VHA care, household income is used to classify the veteran. The income limits for eligibility categories are set January 1st of each year, and so the dollar value associated with a category ("less than …" or "more than …") varies by year. Information about eligibility for care is summarized at the following Web site: http://www.va.gov/elig.

The VHA Medical SAS Datasets include a variable named INCOME, which is an adjusted individual annual income. Adjustments include deductions for payments by the veteran for a wide range of medical expenses. (See the one-page description of the variable INCOME.)

DRGs

In the private sector, the assignment of Diagnosis Related Groups (DRG) is based upon, among other items, the principal diagnosis. The relevant diagnosis field in the VHA Medical SAS Inpatient Dataset is Primary Diagnosis (DXLSF), the diagnosis responsible for the major part of the full stay. Comparison of specific DRGs between VA and non-VA care must take into account any possible organizational differences that may affect the data. Because the VHA is an integrated health care system, an inpatient stay may include some bed sections, such as rehabilitation, that would be treated as separate admissions in the private sector. The importance of such differences will vary by research project.

Data Quality Issues

The quality of the data in the VHA Medical SAS Datasets is a concern of researchers and of VHA administrators as well. Organizationally, the VHA Information Assurance Service plays a central role in ensuring the quality of VA health care utilization data.

Components of the service are responsible for Health Information Management (coding), National Data Systems (including the VHA Medical SAS Datasets), the NPCD, and Data Quality. Researchers interested in the policies, roles, and activities of the Information Assurance Service may want to regularly review the Service's VA Intranet Web site: [redacted].

Assessments of the quality of VHA data in general have been performed by the Office of Inspector General, the Medical Care Cost Recovery program, and workgroups and committees convened for this purpose. Most recently, VHA directed an audit of inpatient data by the Rainbow Technology, Inc./First Consulting Group to assess the current state of coding. The report document, presented in January 1999, was based on inpatient audit reviews conducted at eight different medical centers on a total of 82 inpatient admissions.[14] The review focused on issues of documentation, process, and staff education. In 10 out of the 82 records reviewed, the principal diagnosis code was incorrect. In 8 out of the 82 records, the principal procedure code was either incorrect or missing.

There have been few published studies of data quality by researchers. Lloyd and colleagues investigated discrepancies in ICD-9-CM discharge coding,[15] but their report was published more than fifteen years ago. Kang and colleagues compared the VHA variables for Agent Orange exposure and for Period of Service with military service records at the National Personnel Records Center and reported a 45% false negative rate for the VHA data.[16] That report was published more than 10 years ago. More recently, in 1998, Kashner and colleagues reported that the reliability of patient demographics, use of care, and diagnoses in the VHA inpatient data was adequate for demographics, length of stay, and selected diagnoses, but less reliable for the treating bedsection.[17]

Changes in the VHA environment can be expected to complement efforts by the Information Assurance Service to improve data quality in the systems that are the basis for the Medical SAS Inpatient Datasets. For example, the Balanced Budget Act passed by Congress in 1997 gave authority to the Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) to retain the reimbursement funds that may be collected by local Medical Care Cost Recovery (MCCR). Prior to this legislation, reimbursement funds were directed into a central VHA repository. The ability to retain collected amounts provides incentive for the VISNs to ensure accurate documentation of care. A second environmental support for data quality is the processing of inpatient data in an electronic medical record (EMR). VA policy, consistent with the Joint Commission of the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), permits the use of electronic media for recording the legal medical record (see VHA Manual M-1, "Operations," Part I, "Medical Administration Activities," Chapter 5, "Patient Records," formerly entitled "Medical Records"). The provider interface tool that allows for the use of EMR in VHA is Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS). CPRS represents an integrated, comprehensive suite of clinical applications that creates an electronic medical record. CPRS site implementation, which began in 1997, was completed in January 2000 with 172 sites in production. Studies have reported[17] and professional assessments are consistent[18,19] that a CPRS improves data quality.

Studies of data validity and reliability are integral to the VIReC's core functions. VIReC will be committed to examining data quality issues and will inform data users of any significant issues encountered. However, individual researchers will need to assess the quality of key variables in a given study.

V. Variable One-Page Descriptions

(One-page descriptions begin on the following page.)

Variable Name: **ABO**

Definition: Number of days on pass logged during an inpatient stay

Remarks: This variable is used in the calculation of the **LS** (Number of bed days for the entire episode of care) variable. Guidelines for issuance of authorized absences are in VHA Manual of Policies (M-1), "Operations", Part 1, "Medical Administration Activities", Chapter 10, "Absences".

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	ABSENT BED OCCUPANT DAYS
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, ASIH field

Variable Name: **ADMITDAY**

Definition: Date of admission of the inpatient stay

Remarks: This variable indicates the date when an episode of care began in the hospital or other setting. In non-VA cases, it refers to the date when the VA assumed responsibility for the care. An extended care patient may have an episode of care in both extended care and acute inpatient care if the patient needs acute hospitalization during the extended care stay.

Data Type	Numeric (SAS Date)
Print Format	DATE9. (DDMMMYYYY)
Label	DATE OF ADMISSION
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date Bed Section / 1984 – To Date Procedure / 1988 – To Date Surgery / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, ADMISSION DATE field

Variable Name: **ADMITMO**

Definition: Month of admission of the inpatient stay

Remarks: This variable is derived from the **ADMITDAY** (Date of admission of the inpatient stay).

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	MONTHL. (MMM)
Label	MONTH OF ADMISSION
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Not applicable

Variable Name: **ADMITYR**

Definition: Year of admission of the inpatient stay

Remarks: This variable is the 4-digit year derived from **ADMITDAY** (Date of admission of the inpatient stay).

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	YEAR OF ADMISSION
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Not applicable

Variable Name: **ADTIME**

Definition: Time of admission of the inpatient stay

Remarks: Time is recorded as Military Time (i.e., using the 24-hour clock) with "hhmm" format. Thus, 11:32 A.M. is recorded as "1132", and 11:32 P.M. is recorded as "2332".

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	TIME OF ADMISSION
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1991 – To Date Bed Section / 1991 – To Date Procedure / 1991 – To Date Surgery / 1991 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, ADMISSION DATE field

Variable Name: **AFIX**

Definition: Indicator of whether the admission was to a substation of the parent hospital

Remarks: Parent stations are coded in **STA3N** (Parent station identifier).

Data Type	Character
Print Format	None
Label	ADMITTING STATION SUFFIX
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Not applicable

AFIX can assume the following values:

Value	Description
Blank	Admission was to a parent station
A	Admission was to a substation

Variable Name: **AGE**

Definition: Patient age in years at discharge

Remarks: This variable is computed from the variables **DISDAY** (Date of discharge for the entire inpatient stay) and **BORNDAY** (Date of patient's birth).

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	AGE IN YEARS
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Patient (2) file, DATE OF BIRTH field

Variable Name: **AGOCARE**

Definition: Indicator of whether the care given during the admission is related to exposure to Agent Orange

Remarks: This is a provider-determined variable in contrast to the **AOR** (Patient self-report of exposure to Agent Orange) variable, which indicates a patient self-report of exposure to Agent Orange. For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Character
Print Format	$YESNO.
Label	AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1994 – To Date Bed Section / 1994 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, TREATED FOR AO CONDITION field

AGOCARE can assume the following values:

Value	Description
Y	Yes
N	No

Variable Name: **AG15Y**

Definition: Categorical recoding of **AGE** (Patient age in years at discharge) into 15 groupings

Remarks: For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	AG15YL.
Label	AGE GROUP (15 GROUPS)
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1983 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Derived from Patient (2) file, DATE OF BIRTH field

AG15Y can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	0 – 19 years old
2	20 – 24 years old
3	25 – 29 years old
4	30 – 34 years old
5	35 – 39 years old
6	40 – 44 years old
7	45 – 49 years old
8	50 – 54 years old
9	55 – 59 years old
10	60 – 64 years old
11	65 – 69 years old
12	70 – 74 years old
13	75 – 79 years old
14	80 – 84 years old
15	85+ years old

Variable Name: **AG8R**

Definition: Categorical recoding of **AGE** (Patient age in years at discharge) into 8 groupings

Remarks: For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	AG8RL.
Label	AGE GROUP (8 GROUPS)
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Derived from Patient (2) file, DATE OF BIRTH field

AG8R can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	0 – 24 years old
2	25 – 34 years old
3	35 – 44 years old
4	45 – 54 years old
5	55 – 64 years old
6	65 – 74 years old
7	75 – 84 years old
8	85+ years old

Variable Name: **ANESTEK**

Definition: Principal anesthetic technique for the patient's surgery

Remarks:

Data Type	Character
Print Format	$ANESTEK.
Label	ANESTHETIC TECHNIQUE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Surgery / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, ANEST TECH field

ANESTEK can assume the following values:

Value	Description
R	Rectal
X	Other
0	None
1	Open drop inhalation
2	Circle inhalation
3	Intravenous administration
4	Filtration
5	Field block
6	Nerve block
7	Spinal administration
8	Epidural administration
9	Topical administration

Variable Name: **AOR**

Definition: Patient self-report of exposure to Agent Orange

Remarks: For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	AORL.
Label	AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1982 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Patient (2) file, two fields: EXPOSED TO AGENT ORANGE and VIETNAM SERVICE INDICATED

AOR can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	No claim of service in Vietnam
2	Vietnam service WITH claim of Agent Orange exposure
3	Vietnam service WITHOUT claim of Agent Orange exposure
4	Vietnam service with Agent Orange exposure unknown

Variable Name: **ASIH**

Definition: Number of days a patient is in Absent Sick In Hospital (ASIH) status

Remarks: When a VA nursing home care patient, community nursing home care or domiciliary resident is admitted to a VHA medical center, the patient is placed in ASIH status. This variable is found only in the Extended Care Main dataset and is used in the calculation of the **LS** (The number of bed days for the entire episode of care) variable in that dataset.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	ABSENT SICK IN HOSPITAL
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main (Ext. Care only) / 1982 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, ASIH DAYS field

Variable Name: **AXIS4B**

Definition: Degree of severity of psychosocial stress

Remarks: This variable in and of itself holds no information that can be used to evaluate a patient. It is only one part of a two-part piece of information. The full information is stressor plus degree of severity. **AXIS4B** is only the severity. The associated stressor is a text field (Psychosocial Stress) that is not transferred to the Austin SAS dataset. Examples of the associated stressors are death of a spouse, war experience, or loss of job.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	AXISIV.
Label	PSYCHIATRY AXIS_IV
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1992 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, AXIS-IV field, Diagnostic Results – Mental Health (627.8) file, SEVERITY CODE field. (Note: The 60 character PSYCHOSOCIAL STRESSOR field that is not transferred to AAC is also in this file.)

AXIS4B can assume the following values:

Value	Description
0	Inadequate information or no change
1	None
2	Mild
3	Moderate
4	Severe
5	Extreme
6	Catastrophic

Variable Name: **AXIS51B**

Definition: The most recent Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) recorded for the patient while an inpatient

Remarks: Separate annual SAS datasets have GAF scores for both inpatients and outpatients. These datasets, which are from FY1999 – present, are entitled MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.GAFyy (where yy is the fiscal year). For the actual range and set of interpretations, see the values for **AXIS51B** and **AXIS52B** in Appendix C on page 176.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	AXISV.
Label	PSYCH AXIS_V (CURRENT)
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1992 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Diagnostic Results – Mental Health (627.8) file, AXIS 5 field fills the PTF (45) file, AXIS-V CURRENT FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT field

Variable Name: **AXIS52B**

Definition: The highest Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) score recorded for the patient while an inpatient

Remarks: See **AXIS51B** for more information.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	AXISV.
Label	PSYCH AXIS_V (HIGHEST)
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1992 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Diagnostic Results – Mental Health (627.8) file, AXIS 5 field fills the PTF (45) file, AXIS-V HIGH LEVEL FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT field

Variable Name: **BEDCDR**

Definition: Cost Distribution Report (CDR) code for the bedsection

Remarks: This code may be used in conjunction with the CDR to produce a daily cost of the bed. This cost is an averaged calculation that is based on the actual expenditures of a bedsection for that month. Elements that are used to average this cost include salaries, supplies and contracts. This cost does not cover procedural treatments. CDRs are not used for Community Nursing Homes. Links to resources about the CDR can be found at the Health Economics Resource Center Web site. **BEDCDR** can assume the values shown in Appendix C on page 178.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	BED SECTION CDR CODE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1991 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, LOSING BED SECTION CDR field

Variable Name: **BEDSECN**

Definition: Specialty code of the physician who manages the patient's care during all or a portion of the inpatient stay

Remarks: This is not the physical location of the bed. Space constraints may cause a patient to reside in a bedsection not applicable to their treatment. Extended Care datasets have only four categories available: Domiciliary, Domiciliary Substance Abuse, Nursing Home, and Respite. Non-VHA facilities have only three categories available: Medicine, Surgery, and Psychiatry. **BEDSECN** can assume the values shown in Appendix C on page 180.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	BEDSECN.
Label	BED SECTION
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, DISCHARGE BED SECTION field

Variable Name: **BORNDAY**

Definition: Date of patient's birth

Remarks: During data collection, if the day or month is unknown, then "00" is entered. These values are then converted to "01" to allow for storage as a valid SAS date. If the year of birth is unknown, then an estimated value is entered. (See VHA Manual [MP-6], "Automatic Data Processing," Part XVI, "Patient Treatment File Coding Instructions," Supplement 4.1, 301.02.j(3).)

Data Type	Numeric (SAS Date)
Print Format	DATE9. (DDMMMYYYY)
Label	DATE OF BIRTH
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Patient (2) file, DATE OF BIRTH field

Variable Name: **BORNYEAR**

Definition: The 4-digit year of birth of the patient

Remarks: If the year of birth is unknown, then an estimated value is entered during data collection. (See variable **BORNDAY** Remarks.)

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	YEAR OF BIRTH
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Patient (2) file, DATE OF BIRTH field

Variable Name: **BOS**

Definition: Bed occupancy status at discharge

Remarks: This code indicates the bed occupancy status regardless of whether or not the bed was occupied.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	BOSL.
Label	BED OCCUPANCY STATUS AT DISCHARGE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1987 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, DISCHARGE STATUS field

BOS can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	Bed occupied
2	On Pass status
3	On Leave status
4	Absent Sick In Hospital (ASIH)

Variable Name: **BSINDAY**

Definition: Date that the patient was admitted to the bedsection

Remarks:

Data Type	Numeric (SAS Date)
Print Format	DATE9. (DDMMMYYYY)
Label	DAY ADMITTED TO BEDSECT
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, DATE OF MOVEMENT field

Variable Name: **BSOUTDAY**

Definition: Date that the patient was discharged from the bedsection

Remarks:

Data Type	Numeric (SAS Date)
Print Format	DATE9. (DDMMMYYYY)
Label	DATE TRANSFERRED FROM BEDSECT
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, DATE OF PHYSICAL MOVEMENT field

Variable Name: **BSOUTIME**

Definition: Time of transfer out of the bedsection

Remarks: Time is recorded as Military Time (i.e., using the 24-hour clock) with "hhmm" format. Thus, 11:32 A.M. is recorded as "1132", and 11:32 P.M. is recorded as "2332".

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	TIME TRANSFERRED FROM BEDSECT
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1991 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, DATE/TIME field. Note: DATE/TIME is used for admissions and discharges. The TRANSACTION FILE 405 is used to distinguish discharges from transfers.

Variable Name: **BSSQ**

Definition: Sequential number of the record (SAS observation) with bedsection information for the inpatient stay

Remarks: The bedsection records are stored in the chronological sequencing order by which they occurred. If the patient had a stay in three different bed sections, then the variable values would be 1, 2, and 3, respectively.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER OF BED SECTION
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Not Applicable

Variable Name: **BSTA6A**

Definition: Substation identifier of the bedsection

Remarks: These are sub-codes added to the station number to identify a substation as a branch, domiciliary, nursing home, community nursing home, or non-VA facility of the VAMC facility. **BSTA6A** can assume the values of the variable **STA6A**.

Data Type	Character
Print Format	$STA6AL.
Label	SUBSTATION OF BED SECTION
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, FACILITY NUMBER field

Variable Name: **CP**

Definition: Compensation and Pension status

Remarks: This variable indicates to what extent the condition being treated relates to a service-connected condition and / or disability. The primary diagnosis of the episode is the first determinant of this graded variable, with treatment for service-connected (SC) conditions taking highest precedence. Among those patients being treated for a non-service-connected condition, the grade levels are highest for patients who also have a SC condition, then VA pension recipients, and lowest are non-service-connected, non-pension veterans. In the final category are non-veterans. For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	CPL.
Label	COMPENSATION AND PENSION STATUS
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, C&P STATUS field

CP can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	Treated for compensable SC condition (rated 10 percent or more). (Use even if veteran is receiving a VA pension.)
2	Treated for a non-compensable SC condition (rated less than 10 percent). (Use even if veteran is receiving a VA pension.)
3	Treated for a NSC condition and has a compensable SC disability which did not require medical care. (Use even if veteran is receiving a VA pension.)
4	Treated for a NSC condition and has a non-compensable SC disability which did not require medical care. (Use even if veteran is receiving a VA pension.)
5	Treated for NSC condition, no SC disability and is in receipt of a VA pension.
6	Treated for NSC condition, has non-compensable disability which did not require medical care and is not in receipt of a VA pension.
7	Treated for NSC condition, no SC disability and is not in receipt of a VA pension.
8	Non-veteran

Variable Name: **DBEDSECT**

Definition: Bedsection at discharge

Remarks: This code indicates the treating service of the physician rather than the physical location of the bed, e.g., space constraints may cause a patient to reside in a bedsection not applicable to his treatment. Extended care files have only 4 categories available (Domiciliary, Domiciliary Substance Abuse, Nursing Home, and Respite); likewise, Non-VAH facilities have only 3 categories available (Medicine, Surgery, and Psychiatry). **DBEDSECT** can assume the values of **BEDSECN** shown in Appendix C on page 180.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	BEDSECN.
Label	BED SECTION AT DISCHARGE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF Movement (405) file, DISCHARGE SPECIALTY field

Variable Name: **DIALTYP**

Definition: Type of dialysis treatment

Remarks: These are the values for type of dialysis treatment. Patients receiving routine maintenance dialysis are considered outpatients and are not reported here. When a patient has received multiple types of dialysis, the procedure segment is not a report of the date of treatment, but rather a report of the number of times that type of dialysis treatment was provided during the episode of care. The date and time of the procedure are from the last time the treatment was provided during the episode.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	DIAL.
Label	DIALYSIS TYPE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Procedure / 1988 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, DIALYSIS TYPE field, reference file PTF TYPE OF DIALYSIS (45.4) file

DIALTYP can take on the following values:

Value	Description
1	Acute hemodialysis treatment
2	Chronic assisted (full care) hemodialysis treatment
3	Limited / self care hemodialysis treatment
4	Acute peritoneal dialysis treatment
5	Chronic assisted (full care) peritoneal dialysis treatment
6	Limited / self care peritoneal dialysis treatment
7	Home hemodialysis training treatment
8	Home peritoneal dialysis treatment

Variable Name: **DISDAY**

Definition: Date of discharge for the entire inpatient stay

Remarks: In VA nursing homes, a discharge is made if a patient is absent from the nursing home due to hospitalization (ASIH) for 30 days. In Community Nursing Homes, the discharge is after 15 ASIH days. In non-VA cases, the discharge date refers to the date when the VA no longer assumes responsibility for the care. A patient whose absence is unauthorized is discharged as of midnight on the day he or she leaves, with some exceptions listed in VHA Operations Manual (M-1), Part 1, "Medical Administration Activities," Chapter 10, "Absences." If exceptions are not located within 30 days, a discharge is made. If the client is discharged to a different level of care, e.g., from acute care to nursing home care, the inpatient discharge is recorded and an admission is made for the different level of care.

Data Type	Numeric (SAS Date)
Print Format	DATE9. (DDMMMYYYY)
Label	DATE OF DISCHARGE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date Bed Section / 1984 – To Date Procedure / 1988 – To Date Surgery / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) File, DATE OF DISPOSITION field

Variable Name: **DISMO**

Definition: Month of discharge

Remarks: This variable is computed from **DISDAY** (Date of discharge for the entire inpatient stay).

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	MONTHL.
Label	MONTH OF DISCHARGE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Not Applicable

Variable Name: **DISTIME**

Definition: Time of discharge

Remarks: Time is recorded as Military Time (i.e., using the 24-hour clock) with "hhmm" format. Thus, 11:32 A.M. is recorded as "1132", and 11:32 P.M. is recorded as "2332".

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	TIME OF DISCHARGE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date Bed Section / 1984 – To Date Procedure / 1988 – To Date Surgery / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, DATE OF DISPOSITION field

Variable Name: **DISTO**

Definition: Type of location to which patient was discharged

Remarks: Types of discharge location include various community settings, another VA hospital, or various long-term care facilities. **DISTO** can assume the values shown in Appendix C, page 182. For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	DISTOL.
Label	DISCHARGE TO:
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, PLACE OF DISPOSITION field, Reference file – Place of Disposition (45.6)

Variable Name: **DISTYPE**

Definition: Type of discharge

Remarks: For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	DISTYPEL.
Label	TYPE OF DISCHARGE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date Bed Section / 1984 – To Date Procedure / 1988 – To Date Surgery / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, TYPE OF DISPOSITION field

DISTYPE can take on the following values:

Value	Description
1	Regular
2	Discharge, usually of committed patients, for a minimum of 30 days to determine the patient's ability to make a satisfactory adjustment outside the medical center
3	Discharge of a community nursing home patient due to expiration of a 6-month limitation for stay
4	Irregular
5	Transfer (to another VA medical center or another hospital under VA auspices)
6	Death, with autopsy
7	Death, without autopsy

Variable Name: **DISYR**

Definition: Two-digit calendar year of discharge for the entire episode of care

Remarks: Computed from the variable **DISDAY** (Date of discharge for the entire inpatient stay). The current transmission policy for inpatient records is upon admission, discharge, or transfer. Discharge dates are not available until the record is closed out.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	YEAR OF DISCHARGE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Not Applicable

Variable Name: **DOD**

Definition: Date of death

Remarks: This variable reflects the date of death occurring during an inpatient stay.

Data Type	Numeric (SAS Date)
Print Format	DATE9. (DDMMMYYYY)
Label	DATE OF DEATH
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1992 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, DATE OF DISPOSITION and TYPE OF DISPOSITION fields

Variable Name: **DRG**

Definition: Diagnosis Related Group

Remarks: DRG is calculated from the primary diagnoses **(DXLSF)** and procedures. Information on how the VA assigns DRGs can be found in the VHA Operations Manual (M-1), Part 1, "Medical Administration Activities," Chapter 7, "Patient Data and Quality Control."

DRGG ("Diagnostic Related Group [Ann Arbor]"), is the previous name of the variable. **DRG** can assume the values shown in Appendix C on page 183. For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	DRGSHORT.
Label	DIAGNOSTIC RELATED GROUP (AUSTIN)
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1992 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	None

Variable Name: **DRGB**

Definition: DRG for the bedsection

Remarks: See **DRG** (Diagnosis Related Group) for more information. DRGB was previously called DRGG ("Diagnostic Related Group [Ann Arbor]").

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	DRGSHORT.
Label	DRG FOR BED SECTION
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1982 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	None

Variable Name: **DRUGB**

Definition: Specific drug with which the patient has a substance abuse problem

Remarks:

Data Type	Character
Print Format	$DRUG.
Label	SUBSTANCE ABUSE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1992 – To Date Main / 1992 – FY1994
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, DRUG field

DRUGB can assume the following values:

Value	Description
A001	Heroin
A002	Methadone
A003	Morphine
A004	Opium
A005	Other Opiates
A006	Benzodiazepines
A007	Meprobamate
A008	Barbiturates
A009	Other Sedatives or Hypnotics
A010	Marijuana or Other Cannabis
A011	Amphetamines
A012	Other Psychostiumlants
A013	Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD)
A014	Phencyclidine (PCP)
A015	Other Hallucinogens
A016	Tobacco
A017	Miscellaneous Specified Drug
A018	Not Elsewhere Classified

Variable Name: **DXB2 – DXB5**

Definition: Secondary ICD-9-CM diagnostic codes that apply to the bedsection stay

Remarks:

Data Type	Character
Print Format	None
Label	2nd – 5th DX – BED SECTION (ICD9) (6-DIGIT)
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, DIAGNOSIS 2-5 fields

Variable Name: **DXF2 – DXF10**

Definition: Secondary ICD-9-CM diagnostic codes for full hospital stay

Remarks: These ICD-9-CM diagnoses apply to the full hospital stay. They include all other diagnoses treated, observed, or known diagnoses that impact upon the patient's length of stay during the episode of care. From FY1970 to FY1980, ICD-8 diagnostic codes were used. The number of diagnostic codes in the dataset increased from 5 to 10 in FY1984. For psychiatric patients, diagnosing is based upon DSM-III-R criteria, translated to ICD-9-CM coding for entry into the dataset (see VHA Operations Manual [M-1], Part 1, Chapter 7, "Patient Data and Quality Control", Paragraph 7.08e). An admitting diagnosis variable was in the dataset from FY1984 to FY1986 as well.

Guidelines to clinicians and administrative personnel on making and reporting these diagnoses are given in M-1, Part 1, Chapter 7 of the VHA Operations Manual. Coders are to use only those diagnoses listed on the discharge (or transfer) summary. "Suspected" conditions at discharge are coded as if the condition existed.

Data Type	Character
Print Format	None
Label	2^{ND}–10^{TH} DX – FULL STAY (ICD9) (6-DIGIT)
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, DIAGNOSIS 2-10 fields

Variable Name: **DXLSB**

Definition: ICD-9-CM diagnostic code responsible for the length of stay within the bedsection

Remarks: See **DXF2 - DXF10** for more information.

Data Type	Character
Print Format	None
Label	DX LOS – BED SECTION (ICD9) (6-DIGIT)
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1987 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, DIAGNOSIS 1 field

Variable Name: **DXLSB32**

Definition: Categorical recoding of **DXLSB** (ICD-9-CM diagnostic code responsible for the length of stay within the bedsection)

Remarks: Despite what the name implies, there are 38 listed categories.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	DX9RL. (26 Characters)
Label	DX LOS – BED SECTION (ICD9) (32-RECODE)
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1987 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Derived from PTF (45) file, DIAGNOSIS 1 field

Variable Name: **DXLSB120**

Definition: Categorical recoding of **DXLSB** (ICD-9-CM diagnostic code responsible for the length of stay within the bedsection)

Remarks: Despite what the name implies, there are 119 listed categories.

Data Type	Character
Print Format	$DX9ANL. (24 Characters)
Label	DX LOS – BED SECTION (ICD9) (120-RECODE)
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1987 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Derived from PTF (45) file, DIAGNOSIS 1 field

Variable Name: **DXLSF**

Definition: ICD-9-CM diagnostic code responsible for the major part of the patient's full length of stay in the hospital

Remarks: This is the "primary" diagnosis, rather than the "principal" diagnosis (the diagnosis determined to be the reason for admission) used in many other facilities (for a domiciliary, it is the diagnosis of "greatest clinical significance"). Until FY1981, ICD-8-A was used, and only the first four digits were defined except in special cases. Until FY1986, admitting diagnosis, DXAFULL, was also in the datasets. It was eliminated since it was usually identical to primary diagnosis at discharge. In FY1997, the admitting diagnosis was reestablished as **DXPRIME**. Currently, DRG codes (see **DRG**) are based on **DXPRIME**. This is consistent with coding recommended by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) through its dataset subcommittee definitions.

Data Type	Character
Print Format	None
Label	DX LOS – FULL STAY (ICD9) (6-DIGIT)
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date Bed Section / 1987 – To Date Procedure / 1988 – To Date Surgery / 1987 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, DXLS field

Variable Name: **DXLSF32**

Definition: Categorical recoding of **DXLSF** (ICD-9-CM diagnostic code responsible for the major part of the patient's full length of stay in the hospital)

Remarks: Despite what the name implies, there are 38 listed categories. For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	DX9RL. (26 Characters)
Label	DX LOS – FULL STAY (ICD9) (32-RECODE)
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1987 – To Date Bed Section / 1987 – To Date Procedure / 1988 – To Date Surgery / 1987 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Derived from PTF (45) file, DXLS field

Variable Name: **DXLSF120**

Definition: Categorical recoding of **DXLSF** (ICD-9-CM diagnostic code responsible for the major part of the patient's full length of stay in the hospital)

Remarks: Despite what the name implies, there are 119 listed categories. For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Character
Print Format	$DX9ANL. (24 Characters)
Label	DX LOS – FULL STAY (ICD9) (120-RECODE)
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1987 – To Date Bed Section / 1987 – To Date Procedure / 1988 – To Date Surgery / 1987 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Derived from PTF (45) file, DXLS field

Variable Name: **DXPRIME**

Definition: ICD-9-CM diagnostic code for the principal diagnosis

Remarks: This variable should not be confused with the variable **DXLSF** (ICD-9-CM diagnostic code responsible for the major part of the patient's full length of stay in the hospital). The principal diagnosis is defined by the Department of Health and Human Services to be the condition after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning the admission of the patient to the hospital for care. Currently, DRG codes for episode of care are based on **DXPRIME**.

Data Type	Character
Print Format	None
Label	PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1997 – To Date Bed Section / 1997 – To Date Procedure / 1997 – To Date Surgery / 1997 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, ONLY DX field

Variable Name: **ENVCARE**

Definition: Indication of whether the patient was exposed to environmental contaminants

Remarks: For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Character
Print Format	$YESNO.
Label	ENVIRONMENTAL CARE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1992 – To Date Bed Section / 1994 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, EXPOSED TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINANTS field

Variable Name: **FYDIS**

Definition: Two-digit fiscal year of the discharge derived from the variable **DISDAY** (Date of discharge for the entire inpatient stay)

Remarks:

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	FISCAL YEAR DISCHARGED
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Derived from PTF (45) file, DATE OF DISPOSITION field

Variable Name: **HOMECNTY**

Definition: County of patient's residence

Remarks: Based on the Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) code. The variable contains state code in the first two columns and county code, within the state, in the last three columns. State and county codes are available from the Census Bureau. This is the state county (or equivalent) for the patient's home residence. If the patient resides in a domiciliary, that stay is considered the permanent residence for coding.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	COUNTYL.
Label	COUNTY OF RESIDENCE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Reference file: STATE (5)

Variable Name: **HOMEPSA**

Definition: VHA Medical center that identifies the patient's home residence

Remarks: This variable is considered antiquated, and it should not be used. Rather, it has been recommended that primary service area be identified with the preferred facility indicator in the Enrollment Database (see VISN Support Service Center VHA Intranet at [redacted]) and market areas be identified using the Planning System Support Group's Distributed Population Planning Base model (see the PSSG Web site on the VHA Intranet at [redacted]). **HOMEPSA** can assume the values of **STA3N**, which can be found in Appendix C on page 202.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	STA3NL.
Label	HOME PRIM. SVC AREA
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1980 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Station Number (389.9) file, STATION NUMBER field

Variable Name: **HOMEVISN**

Definition: Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) associated with the veteran's home residence

Remarks: For the values **HOMEVISN** assumes, see **VISN** (Veterans Integrated Service Network where the hospital episode of care occurred). For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	VISN OF RESIDENCE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1995 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Not applicable

Variable Name: **HOMSTATE**

Definition: State associated with the veteran's home residence

Remarks: **HOMSTATE** can assume the values shown in Appendix C on page 196. For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	STATEL.
Label	STATE OF RESIDENCE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Patient (2) file, STATE field

Variable Name: **INCOME**

Definition: Calculation of the patient's reported income

Remarks: **INCOME** is a calculation of all reported income minus any deductions for medical expenses. Medical expenses are those actually paid for by the eligible veteran and include fees of physicians, dentists, and other providers of health services; hospital and nursing home fees; medical insurance premiums (including the Medicare premium); drugs and medicines; eyeglasses; any other expenses that are reasonable related to medical care. Current Policy states that admission data will not be transmitted for patients without a means test on record.

Individual income is part of the household income on which the Means Test is based and include Social Security (except disability), U.S. Civil Service, U.S. Railroad Retirement, Military Retirement, Other Retirement monies, Unemployment Compensation, Employment Income, Interest, Dividends & Annuities, Workers Comp or Black Lung. These values may differ from the annual means test that includes income from other family members.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	COMMA6.
Label	INCOME
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1992 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Individual Annual Income (408.21)

Variable Name: **IRDCARE**

Definition: Indication of whether the patient received radiation treatment while in this bedsection

Remarks: For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Character
Print Format	$YESNO.
Label	RADIATION CARE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1994 – To Date Bed Section / 1994 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, TREATED FOR IR CONDITION

IRDCARE can assume the following values:

Value	Description
Y	Yes
N	No

Variable Name: **LEGIONB**

Definition: Indication of whether the patient was treated for Legionnaire's Disease while in this bedsection

Remarks: This variable is carried only at the bedsection level.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	$YESNO.
Label	LEGIONNAIRES DISEASE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1994 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, LEGIONNAIRES DISEASE field

LEGIONB can assume the following values:

Value	Description
Y	Yes
N	No

Variable Name: **LS**

Definition: Number of bed days for the entire episode of care

Remarks: This variable is calculated as [(**DISDAY** – **ADMITDAY**) – **ABO**], but is given a minimum value of 1. This means that the patients who are admitted and discharged on the same day have the same value in **LS** as those who stay overnight in hospital. To avoid this problem, a user may want to construct his or her own length of stay variable using the formula shown above. **DISDAY** is "Date of discharge for the entire inpatient stay," **ADMITDAY** is "Date of admission of the inpatient stay," and **ABO** is "Number of days on pass logged during an inpatient stay." The Extended Care and non-VA dataset calculations subtract the **ASIH** (Absent Sick In Hospital) days in the **LS** calculation as well.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	LENGTH OF STAY
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date Bed Section / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Not applicable

Variable Name: **LSB**

Definition: Number of bed days for the bedsection of care

Remarks:

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	LENGTH OF STAY IN BED SECTION
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Not applicable

Variable Name: **LSBR**

Definition: Categorical recoding of the **LSB** (Number of bed days for the bedsection of care) variable into 16 groupings

Remarks:

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	LSRL.
Label	RECODED LENGTH OF STAY IN BED SECTION
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1984 – To Date
Previous Names	None
VISTA Data Source	Not applicable

LSBR can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	0 days
2	1 day
3	2 – 3 days
4	4 – 7 days
5	8 – 14 days
6	15 – 21 days
7	22 – 30 days
8	31 – 60 days
9	61 – 90 days
10	91 – 180 days
11	181 – 270 days
12	271 – 365 days
13	336 – 730 days
14	731 – 1825 days
15	1826 – 3650 days
16	3651 or more days

Variable Name: **LSR**

Definition: Categorical recoding of the **LS** (Number of bed days for the entire episode of care) variable into 16 groupings

Remarks: For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*. **LSR** can assume the values of **LSBR** [Categorical recoding of the **LSB** (Number of bed days for the bedsection of care) variable into 16 groupings].

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	LSRL.
Label	LENGTH OF STAY GROUP
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 –To Date Bed Section / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Not applicable

Variable Name: **LVB**

Definition: Number of days on leave from the bedsection

Remarks: A leave of absence from the hospital is an absence of more than 96 hours but not exceeding 14 days or any period of unauthorized absence. (A pass is defined as an authorized absence from the hospital of 96 hours or less.) A period of authorized absence for nursing home care or domiciliary patients may not exceed 30 days. For more information, see VHA Operations Manual (M-1), Part 1, "Medical Administration Activities," Chapter 10, "Absences."

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	LEAVE DAYS IN BED SECTION
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, LEAVE DAYS field

Variable Name: **MDC**

Definition: Major diagnostic category of **DRG**

Remarks: Its previous name was MDCG. For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see the accompanying resource guide, *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	MDCL.
Label	MAJOR DIAGNOSTIC CATEGORY (AUSTIN)
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1982 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Major Diagnostic Category (80.3) file, NAME field

Variable Name: **MDCB**

Definition: Major diagnostic category of the bedsection **DRG**

Remarks:

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	MDCL.
Label	MDC FOR BED SECTION
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1982 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Major Diagnostic Category (80.3) file, NAME field

Variable Name: **MEANS**

Definition: Means Test Indicator code

Remarks: The Means Test Indicator is used in determining a patient's eligibility to receive care. Based on veteran status and percent service-connected eligibility, the assigned value indicates the necessity of a Means Test. Veterans classified as having 10 percent or more service-connected disability, former POWs, WWI veterans, and veterans without service-connected disability who are receiving a VA pension are eligible for mandatory care. They are not required to complete a Means Test. All other veteran patients (namely the non-service connected veterans) are required to complete an annual financial Means Test to determine a financial status against the VA thresholds that are established January 1st of each year. For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see the accompanying resource guide, *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Character
Print Format	$MEANSL.
Label	MEANS TEST INDICATOR
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1987– To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, MEANS TEST INDICATOR field

MEANS can assume the following values:

Value	Description
AN	Category A, not service connected
AS	Category A, service connected / special category
C	Category C
N	Non-veteran
X	Not applicable

Variable Name: **MS**

Definition: Patient's marital status

Remarks: Marital status is elicited from each patient when he or she first applies for medical care. This information is stored within the VISTA Patient file and not in the VISTA PTF file. As such it may be updated through outpatient encounters. We found that ambulatory care staffs do make changes to the patient record regarding this variable. In a comparison between the AAC outpatient data and a patient survey, there was an 82.7% agreement.[20] For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see the accompanying resource guide, *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Character
Print Format	$MSL.
Label	MARITAL STATUS
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970– To Date
VISTA Data Source	Patient (2) file, MARITAL STATUS field

Variable Name: **NBS**

Definition: Number of bed sections in the Bed Section dataset for this discharge

Remarks: This variable should represent the number of transfer segments plus one, the initial bedsection.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	NUMBER OF BED SECTIONS
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1984– To Date
VISTA Data Source	Not applicable

Variable Name: **NCODES**

Definition: Number of ICD-9-CM procedure codes within the record

Remarks: This number (a value of between 1 and 5) indicates how many of the procedure variables (**PROCDE1–PROCDE5**) are populated in this record. Only up to 5 procedure codes can be recorded in the Procedure dataset at one date and time, but up to 32 procedures can be recorded for a patient's entire duration of stay.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	NUMBER OF PROCEDURE CODES THIS SEGMENT
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Procedure / 1988– To Date
VISTA Data Source	Not applicable

Variable Name: **NDXB**

Definition: Number of ICD-9-CM diagnoses codes in the Bed Section dataset record

Remarks: This number (a value of between 1 and 5) indicates how many of the Bed Section diagnosis variables (**DXPRIME**, **DXB2–DXB5**) are populated.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	NO. OF DIAGNOSES – BED SECTION
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1987– To Date
VISTA Data Source	Not applicable

Variable Name: **NDXM**

Definition: Number of ICD-9-CM diagnoses codes in a Main dataset record

Remarks: This number (a value of between 1 and 10) indicates how many of the diagnosis variables (**DXPRIME**, **DXF2–DXF10**) are populated for a patient's inpatient stay in the Main dataset. The previous name of **NDXM** was NDX (Number of diagnostic segments).

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	NO. OF DIAGNOSES – MASTER FILE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1987– To Date
VISTA Data Source	Not applicable

Variable Name: **NPROC**

Definition: Number of records (or segments) in the Procedure dataset associated with the patient's entire length of stay

Remarks: This variable represents the total number of procedure records that exist for this inpatient admission and NOT the number of procedures coded in a particular record. Each record (also referred to as a "segment") in the Procedure Dataset can contain up to 5 procedure codes.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	NUMBER OF PROCEDURE SEGMENTS
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1984 – To Date (Not available 1985–1988) Bed Section / 1984 – To Date (Not available 1985–1988) Procedure / 1984– To Date (Not available 1985–88)
VISTA Data Source	Not applicable

Variable Name: **NSURG**

Definition: Number of records (or segments) in the Surgery dataset associated with the patient's entire length of stay

Remarks: This is not a count of the number of surgeries, as implied by the label. Rather, this is a count of the number of records in the Surgery Dataset with information about the surgery or surgeries performed during the patient's inpatient stay. Each Surgery Dataset record (also referred to as a "segment") can include up to five surgeries.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	NUMBER OF SURGICAL OPERATIONS
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1984 – To Date Bed Section / 1984 – To Date Surgery / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Not applicable

Variable Name: **NTREAT**

Definition: Number of dialysis treatments of a given type

Remarks: This is not necessarily the number of dialysis treatment, as indicated by the Label. Rather, this is a count of the number of dialysis treatments of a given type (see **DIALTYP**) performed during the inpatient stay. If more than one treatment of a given type of dialysis was done, the date of the procedure (see **PROCDAY**) is the date of the last dialysis procedure of the given type.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	NUMBER OF DIALYSIS TREATMENTS
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Procedure / 1988 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, NUMBER OF TREATMENTS field

Variable Name: **NVASURG**

Definition: Source of payment for surgery in non-VA facility

Remarks: This is the source of payment for surgery performed in a non-VA facility, whether performed by VA or non-VA surgeons. Coding documentation references the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for the definitions of contract and sharing agreements.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	NVASURGL.
Label	NON-VA SURGERY
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Surgery / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, SOURCE OF PAYMENT field

NVASURG can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	Contract, public, and private hospitals (see 38 CFR 17.50b)
2	Sharing agreement (see 38 CFR 17.50e)
3	Contract, military, and Federal agencies (see 38 CFR 17.50 and 17.50a), when period of service codes are A through L (see **PSX**)
4	Paid unauthorized services (see 38 CFR 17.80)

Variable Name: **NXFER**

Definition: Number of records in Bed Section Dataset with bedsection stay information

Remarks: This is a count of records in the Bed Section Dataset with information about the patient's stay in the bedsection as the result of a transfer. A "transfer" is a change from one bedsection to another or from or to a specialized unit, made for a change in patient care requirements, where the stay is a minimum of 24 hours. Moving to a different section due to bed availability would not generate a transfer record.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	NUMBER OF TRANSFER SEGMENTS
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1984 – To Date Bed Section / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Not Applicable

Variable Name: **OPT**

Definition: Indicator that the discharge is to outpatient treatment

Remarks: This variable indicates whether or not the patient is being referred for outpatient follow-up treatment after an inpatient stay. For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see the accompanying resource guide, *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	OPTL.
Label	DISCHARGE TO OUTPATIENT?
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, OUTPATIENT TREATMENT field

OPT can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	Yes
2	Due to service-connected disability, patient is automatically eligible for outpatient care (not simply as follow-up from this inpatient stay)
3	No

Variable Name: **PASS**

Definition: Number of days on pass during entire stay

Remarks: This is the total number of days on pass during the inpatient stay. A pass is an absence of less than 96 hours; the bed remains reserved for the patient's return. This variable is NOT used in calculating length of stay (see **ABO**).

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	DAYS ON PASS – ALL BED SECTIONS
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, PASS DAYS field

Variable Name: **PASSB**

Definition: Number of days on pass during bedsection stay

Remarks: This is the total number of days on pass during the bedsection stay. A pass is an absence of less than 96 hours; the bed remains reserved for the patient's return. This variable is NOT used in calculating length of stay (see **ABO**).

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	PASS DAYS IN BED SECTION
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, PASS DAYS field

Variable Name: **PLBED**

Definition: Physical location of patient's bed

Remarks: This is the bedsection code for the physical location of the patient's bed. **PLBED** can assume the values of **BEDSECN**, which can be found in Appendix C one page 180.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	BEDSECN.
Label	PHYSICAL LOCATION CODE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1991 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, PHY SPEC field

Variable Name: **PLCDR**

Definition: Cost Distribution Report account number for physical location of bed at discharge

Remarks: This is the Cost Distribution Report (CDR) cost account number for the discharge location. Links to resources about the CDR can be found on the Health Economics Resource Center Web site. **PLCDR** can assume the values shown in Appendix C on page 178.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	PHYSICAL LOCATION CDR (DISCH)
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1991 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, PHY CDR files

Variable Name: **PLCDRB**

Definition: Cost Distribution Report account number for bedsection of the physical location of bed

Remarks: This is the Cost Distribution Report (CDR) cost account number for the physical location of the patient's bed. Links to resources about the CDR can be found on the Health Economics Resource Center Web site. **PLCDRB** can assume the values shown in Appendix C on page 178.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	PHYSICAL LOCATION CDR
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1991 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, LOSING BED SECTION CDR field

Variable Name: **PLDISCH**

Definition: Bedsection code for physical location at discharge

Remarks: This is a bedsection code for the patient's physical location at discharge. **PLDISCH** matches the discharge bedsection (variable **DBEDSECT**), except when the treatment service unit is not the same as the unit where the patient is physically located. **PLDISCH** can assume the values of the variable **BEDSECN**, which can be found in Appendix C on page 180. For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see the accompanying resource guide, *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	BEDSECN.
Label	PHYSICAL LOCATION CODE (DISCH)
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1991 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, PHY SPEC field

Variable Name: **POW**

Definition: Prisoner of War status with name of war and location

Remarks: Note that this variable assumes only three values ("YES", "NO", or "UNKNOWN") in the Outpatient Visit Dataset. For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see the accompanying resource guide, *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	POWL.
Label	PRISONER OF WAR STATUS
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1976 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Patient (2) file, POW STATUS INDICATED field

POW can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	Not a POW
2	N/A
3	Information not available
4	POW in WWI
5	POW in WWII, Europe only
6	POW in WWII, South Pacific
7	POW in Korean Conflict only
8	POW in Vietnam Era only
9	POW during more than one of the preceding periods of service
10	Persian Gulf
11	Yugoslavia

Variable Name: **PROCDAY**

Definition: Date of procedure or procedures performed at a given date and time combination

Remarks:

Data Type	Numeric (SAS Date)
Print Format	DATE9. (DDMMYYYY)
Label	DATE OF PROCEDURE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Procedure / 1988 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	File 45.05, DATE OF PROCEDURE field

Variable Name: **PROCDE1 – PROCDE5**

Definition: ICD-9-CM Procedure Codes for 1st – 5th procedures performed on a given date and time

Remarks: Procedures include dental services and are defined as either intervention operations or non-surgical actions (e.g., diagnostic, therapeutic) not occurring in an operating room. Up to five procedures can be reported for a given date and time, with up to 32 total procedures allowed for one inpatient stay. Each date-time combination constitutes a record (or a segment) in the Procedure Dataset. Each record can record up to five procedures. If more than five procedures were performed at a given date and time, "only the most significant will be entered." (See VHA Operations Manual [MP-6], Part 16, Supplement 4.1, Chapter 2, "NPTF [New Patient Treatment File] Transactions", Paragraph 301.06.)

Data Type	Character
Print Format	None
Label	1ST–5TH PROCEDURE CODES
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Procedure / 1988 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	File 45.05, PROCEDURE CODES field

Variable Name: **PROCTIME**

Definition: Starting time for the procedure or procedures performed at a given time

Remarks: Time is recorded in Military Time (i.e., using the 24-hour clock) with "hhmm" format. Thus, 11:32 A.M. is recorded as "1132", and 11:32 P.M. is recorded as "2332".

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	TIME OF PROCEDURE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Procedure / 1991 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	File 45.05, DATE OF PROCEDURE field

Variable Name: **PSEQ**

Definition: Sequential number of the record (SAS observation) with procedure information for a given date and time of the inpatient stay

Remarks: If procedures were performed at more than one date / time combination during the inpatient stay, then an additional record is created with the PSEQ variable indicating the chronologically sequenced order of the occurrence. Each record can contain up to five ICD-9-CM procedure codes. **NPROC** (Number of records [or segments] in the Procedure dataset associated with the patient's entire length of stay) in the associated Main and Procedure SAS datasets reflects the total number of procedure records that exist for this inpatient stay.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER OF PROC SEGMENT
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Procedure / 1988 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Not Applicable

Variable Name: **PSEUD**

Definition: Pseudo-SSN indicator

Remarks: This variable indicates if the patient's Social Security Number (SSN) is recorded as a pseudo-Social Security Number created using numeric equivalents of the patient's initials and birth date. A pseudo-SSN is a temporary identification when the patient has no SSN or the patient's true SSN cannot be determined. The pseudo-SSN will be retained as a permanent identification number when a patient refuses to apply for a Social Security Number or death occurs before an SSN application can be made.

Data Type	Character
Print Format	None
Label	PSEUDO SSN INDICATOR
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Patient (2) file, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER field

PSEUD can assume the following values:

Value	Description
P	Social Security Number recorded is a pseudo-SSN
Blank	Social Security Number recorded is not a pseudo-SSN

Variable Name: **PSRCD**

Definition: Categorical recode of Period of Service

Remarks: This is a recode of **PSX** (Period of service that is basis for care) into chronological categories of military service from the Spanish-American War to Desert Storm. For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see the accompanying resource guide, *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	PSRCDL.
Label	PERIOD OF SERVICE (RECODED)
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Patient (2) File, PERIOD OF SERVICE field

PSRCD can assume the following values:

Value	Description
0	Spanish-American War (April 21, 1898, to July 4, 1902)
1	World War I (April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; date can be extended to April 1, 1920, if veteran served in Russia)
2	World War II (December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946)
3	Pre-Korean Conflict (Before June 27, 1950)
4	Korean Conflict (June 27, 1950, to January 31, 1955)
5	Post-Korean/Peacetime Service (February 1, 1955, to August 4,1964)
6	Vietnam Era (August 5, 1964, to May 7, 1975)
7	Post-Vietnam/Peacetime Service (On or after May 8, 1975)
8	Other active military or non-veteran
9	Desert Storm active duty
10	Desert Storm veteran

Variable Name: **PSX**

Definition: Period of service that is basis for care

Remarks: This variable is called "category of beneficiary" in the coding instructions and is related to the authority under which a patient is eligible for care. This variable is a mixture of the branch of service (Army, Navy, etc.) for patients currently on active duty, the period of service (Spanish-American War to Desert Storm) for veterans, and other codes (e.g., Workers Compensation, emergency, CHAMPUS, etc.), which are largely for non-veterans. If a veteran has more than one period of service, the latest wartime period of service is coded, unless the patient is service-connected for a condition incurred in an earlier period. **PSX** can assume the values shown in Appendix C on page 198. For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see the accompanying resource guide, *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Character
Print Format	$PSXL.
Label	PERIOD OF SERVICE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Patient (2) file, PERIOD OF SERVICE field

Variable Name: **RACE**

Definition: Race or national origin

Remarks: Reporting of race or ethnicity most frequently is extracted from clinical documentation (e.g., discharge summary) and / or observation of administrative staff. For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see the accompanying resource guide, *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	RACEL.
Label	RACE OR NATIONAL ORIGIN
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Patient (2) file, RACE field

RACE can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	Hispanic White
2	Hispanic Black
3	American Indian
4	Black
5	Asian
6	White
7	Unknown
(Other)	Missing

Variable Name: **RAD**

Definition: Exposure to Ionizing Radiation through nuclear testing or in Japan

Remarks: This variable was added to the dataset in July of FY1982. It is self-reported and is not recorded for non-veterans or for those veterans in service prior to WWII. For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see the accompanying resource guide, *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Number
Print Format	RADL.
Label	RADIATION EXPOSURE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1982 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Patient (2) file, EXPOSURE TO RADIATION INDICATED

RAD can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	No claim of exposure to ionizing radiation
2	Claims exposure to ionizing radiation in Hiroshima or Nagasaki, Japan
3	Claims exposure to ionizing radiation through nuclear testing
4	Claims exposure to ionizing radiation both through nuclear testing and in Japan

Variable Name: **SCI**

Definition: Indication of patient's spinal cord injury status

Remarks: This variable is the patient's spinal cord injury status as recorded for the bedsection. The variable **SCI** in the Main Dataset is the status recorded for the discharge bedsection; in the Bed Section Dataset, multiple bedsections may have different values for **SCI**, since a patient's status can change over time. This variable was not required for extended care discharges until FY1998. For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see the accompanying resource guide, *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Character
Print Format	$SCIL.
Label	SPINAL CORD INJURY STATUS
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date Bed Section / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Patient (2) File, SPINAL CORD INJURY field

SCI can assume the following values:

Value	Description
X	Not applicable
1	Traumatic paraplegia
2	Traumatic quadriplegia
3	Nontraumatic paraplegia
4	Nontraumatic quadriplegia

Variable Name: **SCPER**

Definition: Percentage of a patient's disability that is service-connected with respect to **DXLSF** (ICD-9-CM diagnostic code responsible for the major part of the patient's full length of stay in the hospital)

Remarks: This is not the percent service-connected disability used for the patient's Compensation and Pension (C&P) status (see **CP**). However, the C&P percentage may be recorded here without determination of the percent specifically for the primary diagnosis. This variable is not used for domiciliary or non-VA care. For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see the accompanying resource guide, *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	PERCENT SERVICE-CONNECTED
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1991 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Patient (2) file, SERVICE-CONNECTED PERCENTAGE field

Variable Name: **SCRSSN**

Definition: Scrambled Social Security Number

Remarks: Scrambled Social Security Number was created in FY1986 as a replacement for the patient's real Social Security Number (SSN). It is a formula manipulation of the real SSN and not a randomly generated number. Therefore, **SCRSSN** may be used to identify a patient across fiscal years and datasets.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	SSN11. (999-99-9999)
Label	SCRAMBLED SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1986 – To Date Bed Section / 1986 – To Date Procedure / 1986 – To Date Bed Section / 1986 – To Date (Note: Real SSN was used 1980–85)
VISTA Data Source	None (formula manipulation of Patient (2) file real SSN)

Variable Name: **SEX**

Definition: Sex of patient

Remarks: For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see the accompanying resource guide, *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Character
Print Format	$SEXL.
Label	GENDER OF PATIENT
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Patient (2) file, SEX field

SEX can assume the following values:

Value	Description
M	Male
F	Female

Variable Name: **SGR1**

Definition: Categorical recode of **SURG9CD1** (First surgical procedure code for the operation)

Remarks: **SGR1** can assume the values shown in Appendix C on page 199.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	SG999L.
Label	99-RECODE OF SURG9CD1
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Surgery / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Not Applicable

Variable Name: **SGSQ**

Definition: Sequential number of the record (SAS observation) containing the surgeries performed on a given date / time.

Remarks: If surgeries were performed at more than one date / time combination during the inpatient stay, then an additional record is created with the **SGSQ** variable indicating the chronologically sequenced order of the occurrence. Each record can contain up to five ICD-9-CM procedure codes. **NSURG** (Number of records [or segments] in the Surgery Dataset associated with the patient's entire length of stay) in the associated Main and Surgery SAS datasets reflects the total number of surgery records that exist for this inpatient stay.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER OF OPERATION
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Surgery / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Not Applicable

Variable Name: **SOURCE**

Definition: Source of admission

Remarks: This refers primarily to the source of referral and, secondarily, to the military status of the patient. This value is calculated from the combination of the station value for the station transmitting the record and the PTF Source of Admission data.

Data Type	Character
Print Format	$SOURCEL.
Label	SOURCE OF ADMISSION
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, SOURCE OF ADMISSION field, SOURCE OF ADMISSION (45.1) file – reference

SOURCE can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1D	VA Nursing Home Care Unit (NHCU)
1E	VA Domiciliary
1G	Contract Community Nursing Home (CNH) – Under VA Auspices
1H	CNH – Not under VA Auspices (NVA)
1J	Government (non-Federal) Mental Hospital – NVA
1K	All other non-VA Hospitals – NVA
1L	State Home (domiciliary or nursing home)
1M	Direct (excludes admission from outpatient status)
1P	Outpatient treatment
1R	Research – veteran
1S	Research – non-veteran
1T	Observation and examination
2A	Non-veteran, other than military
2B	Military personnel, not directly from a military hospital
2C	Other non-VA hospital under VA auspices (includes military hospital and State Home Hospital)
3A	A VA medical center
3B	Other Federal Hospital (excluding military hospital) under VA auspices
3C	Other non-VA hospital under VA auspices (includes military hospital and State Home Hospital)
3E	Transfer from a VA medical center to a VA medical center and the patient has been continuously hospitalized since before 7/1/86, the source of admission will generate a MEANS test indicator of "X"

Variable Name: **SRTKEY**

Definition: Sort key

Remarks: This is the sequential number of the record on the raw regional files, used as a record identifier if two or more records cannot be otherwise distinguished.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	SORT KEY
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date Procedure / 1988 – To Date Surgery / 1984 – To Date Bed Section / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Not Applicable

Variable Name: **SSTA6A**

Definition: Identifier of the substation where surgery was performed

Remarks: For more information, see the remarks for **STA6A** (Substation identifier).

Data Type	Character
Print Format	$STA6AL.
Label	SUBSTATION OF SURGERY
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Surgery / 1988 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	STATION NUMBER (389.9) file

Variable Name: **STA3N**

Definition: Parent station identifier

Remarks: This is the 3-digit numeric identification of VAMC facilities. This variable indicates the parent station (VA hospital) or the parent station of a branch to which the patient was admitted. Use **STA6A** (Substation identifier) to identify the actual facility to which the patient was admitted. If a patient was admitted to a VAMC facility, then this variable and **STA6A** will have the same values. **STA3N** can assume the values shown in Appendix C on page 202. For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see the accompanying resource guide, *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	STA3NL.
Label	STATION (PARENT)
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date Bed Section / 1984 – To Date Procedure / 1988 – To Date Surgery / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, FACILITY NUMBER field

Variable Name: **STA6A**

Definition: Substation identifier

Remarks: This variable identifies the VA substation to which a patient was admitted. Prior to 1984, this variable was listed as the admitting station in the SAS datasets. Since that time, it has been called the discharging substation to indicate that the data are included in the fiscal year based on the discharge date rather than the admission date. Since this variable can take as many as 1,100 distinct values, they are not listed in this document. Instead, users are referred to the VA Site Tracking (VAST) database, maintained by the Planning Systems Support Group (PSSG) of the Office of Policy and Planning, at [redacted]. Those who do not have VA intranet access can call 202-273-8932 to obtain the list of substations. For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see the accompanying resource guide, *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Character
Print Format	$STA6AL.
Label	DISCHARGING SUBSTATION
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date Procedure / 1988 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	STATION NUMBER (389.9) file

Variable Name: **STAFROM**

Definition: Source station (if transferred)

Remarks: Direct admissions from VA nursing homes or a domiciliary, contract community nursing homes, and military personnel from military hospitals, and transfers from other VA Medical Centers and other VA-auspice hospitals are recorded here.

Data Type	Character
Print Format	$STA6AL.
Label	SOURCE STATION (IF TRANSFERRED)
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, SOURCE OF ADMISSION field, SOURCE OF ADMISSION (45.1) file, STATION TYPE field STATION TYPE (45.81) file – reference file STATION NUMBER (389.9) file, - reference

Variable Name: **STATYP**

Definition: Station type

Remarks: This is found in the Extended Care, Non-VA, and Observation dataset of inpatient datasets.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	STATYPL.
Label	STATION TYPE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main (Ext. Care and non-VA) / 1991 – To Date Bed Section (Ext. Care and non-VA) / 1991 – To Date Procedure (Ext. Care and non-VA) / 1991 – To Date Surgery (Ext. Care and non-VA) / 1991 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, FACILITY NUMBER field (last 3 digits)

STATYP can assume the following values:

Value	Description
30	VA Domiciliary
40	VA Nursing Home
42	Community Nursing Home

Variable Name: **SUICIDEB**

Definition: Suicide indicator

Remarks: This indicates if a suicide was attempted or accomplished or if a self-inflicted injury occurred. **SUICIDEB** was previously called SUICIDE.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	$SUICIDE.
Label	SUICIDE INDICATOR
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1992 – To Date Main / 1992 – 1994
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, SUICIDE INDICATOR field.

SUICIDEB can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	Attempted
2	Accomplished
3	Self-inflicted injury occurred
(Other)	None

Variable Name: **SURG9CD1 – SURG9CD5**

Definition: 1st – 5th ICD-9-CM procedure codes

Remarks: Many surgical procedures may be performed during a single operation. The VISTA PTF (45) file only records up to five procedures in ICD-9-CM before a second record is generated.

Data Type	Character
Print Format	None
Label	1ST – 5TH SURGERY CODE (ICD9)
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Surgery / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, OPCODE fields

Variable Name: **SURGDAY**

Definition: Date of surgery

Remarks: This is the date that the surgery was performed.

Data Type	Numeric (SAS Date)
Print Format	DATE9. (DDMMMYYYY)
Label	DAY OF SURGERY
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Surgery / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45), DATE OF SURGERY field

Variable Name: **SURGNAST**

Definition: Identifier of the employment status / category of the first surgical assistant

Remarks: This variable is coded only for patients who are operated on in a VA facility.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	SURGNTPL.
Label	CATEGORY OF FIRST SURG. ASSISTANT
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Surgery / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45), file, 401 field, CATEGORY OF FIRST ASSISTANT sub-field

SURGNAST can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	Staff, Full-time
2	Staff, Part-time
3	Consultant
4	Attending
5	Fee Basis
6	Resident
7	Other (Includes Intern)
8	No Assistant

Variable Name: **SURGNCAT**

Definition: Identifier of the category of team of surgeons

Remarks: This is not the category of the chief surgeon, as the label implies. Rather, this variable identifies the team of surgeons performing the operation either within the VA (codes 1-7), or outside the VA (codes M, N, and V).

Data Type	Character
Print Format	$SGNCATL.
Label	CATEGORY OF CHIEF SURGEON
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Surgery / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, CATEGORY OF CHIEF SURG field

SURGNCAT can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	Staff, Full-time
2	Staff, Part-time
3	Consultant
4	Attending
5	Fee-Basis
6	Resident
7	Other (Includes Intern)
M	Mixed VA & Non-VA team
N	Non-VA team
V	VA team

Variable Name: **SURGSPEC**

Definition: Identifier of the surgical specialty of the chief surgeon or resident

Remarks: This is the surgical specialty of the chief surgeon or resident (when applicable). Codes for residents reflect the residency assignment. There are currently 13 possible surgical specialties. The BEDSECTION code of 50 is used for non-VA surgery. For **BEDSECN** codes, see Appendix C one page 180.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	BEDSECN.
Label	SURGICAL SPECIALTY
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Surgery / 1984 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, 401 field, sub-field SURGICAL SPECIALTY pints to a reference file SURGICAL SPECIALTY (45.3)

SURGSPEC can assume the following values:

Value	Description
50	General (or when surgery is not any of the following)
51	Gynecology
52	Neurosurgery
53	Ophthalmology
54	Orthopedic
55	Ear, Nose & Throat (Otorhinolaryngology)
56	Plastic Surgery (includes head and neck)
57	Proctology
58	Thoracic Surgery (includes Cardiac Surgery)
59	Urology
60	Oral Surgery (Dental)
61	Podiatry
62	Peripheral Vascular

Variable Name: **SURGTIME**

Definition: Time of surgery

Remarks: Time is recorded as Military Time (i.e., using the 24-hour clock) with "hhmm" format. Thus, 11:32 A.M. is recorded as "1132", and 11:32 P.M. is recorded as "2332".

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	TIME OF SURGERY
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Surgery / 1991 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45), DATE OF SURGERY field

Variable Name: **SVCCONB**

Definition: Indicates whether the condition being treated within the bedsection is service-connected

Remarks:

Data Type	Character
Print Format	$YESNO.
Label	SERVICE CONNECTED
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Bed Section / 1991 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, SC field

SVCCONB can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	Yes
2	No

Variable Name: **TOSTA6A**

Definition: Receiving station (if transferred)

Remarks: Receiving station / facility, if transferred under VA auspices.

Data Type	Character
Print Format	$STA6AL.
Label	RECEIVING STATION (IF TRANSFERRED)
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, RECEIVING FACILITY field

Variable Name: **TSTAT**

Definition: Kidney donor status

Remarks: This variable indicates whether the kidney donor was alive or dead. For patients not receiving a kidney transplant, no entry is made.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	TRANSPL.
Label	TRANSPLANT STATUS
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Surgery / 1992 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45), TRANSPLANT STATUS field

TSTAT can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	Live Donor
2	Cadaver

Variable Name: **UPDATDAY**

Definition: Last date record updated

Remarks: The current policy for uploading PTF data to the national repository in Austin includes a transmission for admission, discharge and transfers. Upon each subsequent transmission, the previous record is written over. This variable provides information on the last date of update.

Data Type	Numeric (SAS Date)
Print Format	DATE9. (DDMMMYYYY)
Label	LAST DATE RECORD UPDATED
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1991 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Not Applicable

Variable Name: **VAAUS**

Definition: Discharge to VA auspices

Remarks: If further care is indicated, this variable captures whether that care is provided under VA auspices (e.g., at VA expense). For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see the accompanying resource guide, *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	VAAUSL.
Label	DISCHARGE TO VA AUSPICES
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1970 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	PTF (45) file, VA AUSPICES field

VAAUS can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	Yes
2	No

Variable Name: **VISN**

Definition: Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) where the hospital episode of care occurred

Remarks: VISNs are VHA organizational business units comprised of multiple medical centers and clinics within a geographic region. For frequency counts of the values for this variable, see the accompanying resource guide, *VIReC Research User Guide: Select Variable Frequencies From The FY2002 VHA Medical SAS® Datasets*.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	VETERANS INTEGRATED SERVICE NETWORK
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1995 – To Date Bed Section / 1995 – To Date Procedure / 1995 – To Date Surgery / 1995 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	INSTITUTIONS (4) file, ASSOCIATIONS field

VISN can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	VA New England Healthcare System
2	VA Healthcare Network Upstate New York
3	VA NY / NJ Veterans Healthcare Network
4	VA Stars & Stripes Healthcare Network
5	VA Capitol Health Care Network
6	VA Mid-Atlantic Network
7	The Atlantic Network
8	VA Sunshine Healthcare Network
9	Mid South Veterans Healthcare Network
10	VA Healthcare System of Ohio
11	Veterans In Partnership
12	The Great Lakes Health Care System
15	VA Heartland Network
16	South Central VA Health Care Network
17	VA Heart of Texas Health Care Network
18	VA Southwest Healthcare Network
19	Rocky Mountain Network
20	Northwest Network
21	Sierra Pacific Network
22	Desert Pacific Healthcare Network
23	VA Midwest Health Care Network

Variable Name: **ZIP**

Definition: Zip code

Remarks: This variable indicates 5-digit postal code for the patient's home residence.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	Z5.
Label	ZIP CODE
Datasets / Fiscal Years	Main / 1976 – To Date
VISTA Data Source	Patient (2) file

IV. Works Cited

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Appendix A: Comprehensive Listing of the Variables in the Medical SAS Inpatient Datasets

(The listing begins on the next page)

ACUTE MAIN (PM) variables from FY 1970 – FY 2002

Variable	Label	Fiscal Years	Bytes	Type*	Format
ABO	ABSENT BED OCCUPANT DAYS	1970–	4	N	
ADMITDAY	DATE OF ADMISSION	1970–	4	N	DATE9
ADMITMO	MONTH OF ADMISSION	1970–	2	N	MONTHL
ADMITYR	YEAR OF ADMISSION	1970–	2	N	
ADTIME	TIME OF ADMISSION	1991–	4	N	
AFIX	ADMITTING STATION SUFFIX	1984–	1	C	
AGE	AGE IN YEARS	1970–	2	N	
AGOCARE	AGENT ORANGE CARE	1994–	1	C	$YESNO
AG15Y	AGE GROUP	1983–	2	N	AG15YL
AG3R	AGE GROUP	1977–82	2	N	AG3RL
AG8R	AGE GROUP	1970–	2	N	AG8RL
ANESTEK	ANESTHETIC TECHNIQUE	1970–83	1	C	$ANESTKL
ANESTIST	ANESTHETIST	1970–83	2	N	ANESTISL
AOR	AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE	1982–	2	N	AORL
AXIS4	PSYCHIATRY AXIS_IV	1992–94	2	N	AXISIV
AXIS51	PSYCH AXIS_V (CURRENT)	1992–94	2	N	AXISV
AXIS52	PSYCH AXIS_V (HIGHEST)	1992–94	2	N	AXISV
ASIH	ABSENT SICK IN HOSPITAL	1989–90	2	N	
BEDSECT	BED SECTION AT DISCHARGE	1970–83	2	N	BEDSECTL
BORNDAY	DATE OF BIRTH	1970–	4	N	DATE9
BORNYEAR	YEAR OF BIRTH	1970–	4	N	
BOS	BED OCCUPANCY STATUS AT DISCHARGE	1987–	2	N	BOSL
CP	COMPENSATION & PENSION STATUS	1970–	2	N	CPL
DBEDSECT	BED SECTION AT DISCHARGE	1984–	2	N	BEDSECN
DISDAY	DATE OF DISCHARGE	1970–	4	N	DATE9
DISMO	MONTH OF DISCHARGE	1970–	4	N	MONTHL
DISTIME	TIME OF DISCHARGE	1991–	4	N	
DISTO	DISCHARGED TO:	1970–	2	N	DISTOL
DISTRICT	MEDICAL DISTRICT	1970–	2	N	
DISTYPE	TYPE OF DISCHARGE	1970–	2	N	DISTYPEL
DISYR	YEAR OF DISCHARGE	1970–	2	N	
DOD	DATE OF DEATH	1992–	4	N	DATE9
DRG	DIAGNOSTIC RELATED GROUP (AUSTIN)	1986–	3	N	DRGSHORT
DRGG	DIAGNOSTIC RELATED GROUP	1982–85	4	N	DRGSHORT

Variable	Label	Fiscal Years	Bytes	Type*	Format
DRGR	DIAGNOSTIC RELATED GROUP	1983–83	4	N	
DRUG	SUBSTANCE ABUSE	1992–94	4	C	$DRUG
DSTATUS	STATUS AT DISCHARGE	1970–83	2	N	DSTATUSL
DXAAN	ADMITTING DIAGNOSIS	1984–86	2	C	$DX9ANL
DXAFULL	ADMITTING DIAGNOSIS	1984–86	5	C	
DXAN1	PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS	1970–80	2	C	$DXANL
DXAN2	SECONDARY DIAGNOSIS	1970–80	2	C	$DXANL
DXAR	ADMITTING DIAGNOSIS	1984–86	2	N	DX9RL
DXFULL1–DXFULL5	FIRST DIAGNOSTIC CODE	1970–80	5	C	
DXF2–DXF10	2^{ND} –10TH DX–FULL STAY	1987–	6	C	
DXLSF	DX LOS – FULL STAY	1987–	6	C	
DXLSF120	DX LOS – FULL STAY	1987–	2	C	$DX9ANL24
DXLSF32	DX LOS – FULL STAY	1987–	2	N	DX9RL26
DXPAN	PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS	1984–86	2	C	$DX9ANL
DXPFULL	PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS	1984–86	5	C	
DXPR	PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS	1984–86	2	N	DX9RL
DXPRIME	PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS	1997–	6	C	
DXR1	PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS	1970–80	2	N	DXRL
DXR2	SECONDARY DIAGNOSIS	1970–80	2	N	DXRL
DX9AN1	PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS	1981–83	2	C	$DX9ANL
DX9AN2	SECONDARY DIAGNOSIS	1981–83	2	C	$DX9ANL
DX9FULL1–DX9FULL10	1^{ST} –10^{TH} DIAGNOSTIC CODE	1981–86	5	C	
DX9R1	PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS	1981–83	2	N	DX9RL
DX9R2	SECONDARY DIAGNOSIS	1981–83	2	N	DX9RL
ENVCARE	ENVIRONMENTAL CARE	1992–	1	C	$YESNO
FYDIS	FISCAL YEAR DISCHARGED	1970–	2	N	
HOMECNTY	COUNTY OF RESIDENCE	1970–	4	N	COUNTYL
HOMEDIST	HOME DISTRICT	1980–85	2	N	
HOMEDIST	HOME DISTRICT	1987–91	2	N	
HOMEPSA	HOME PRIM. SVC AREA	1980–	3	N	STA3NL
HOMEVISN	VISN OF PRIMARY RESIDENCE	1995–	8	N	
HOMREGDV	HOME REGIONAL DIV.	1992–94	2	N	REGIONL
HOMSTATE	STATE OF RESIDENCE	1970–	2	N	STATEL
INCOME	ANNUAL INCOME	1992–	2	N	COMMA6
IRDCARE	RADIATION CARE	1992–	1	C	$YESNO
LEGION	LEGIONNAIRE'S DISEASE	1992–94	2	N	YESNO

Variable	Label	Fiscal Years	Bytes	Type*	Format
LS	LENGTH OF STAY	1970–	4	N	
LSR	LENGTH OF STAY GROUP	1970–	2	N	LSRL
MDC	MAJOR DIAGNOSTIC CATEGORY (AUSTIN)	1986–	2	N	MDCL
MDCG	MAJOR DIAGNOSTIC CATEGORY (ANN ARBOR)	1982–85	2	N	MDCL
MDCR	MAJOR DIAGNOSTIC CATEGORY (VERSION R)	1983	2	N	MDCL
MEANS	MEANS TEST INDICATOR	1987–	2	C	$MEANSL
MEDSPEC	MEDICAL SPECIALTY	1970–83	2	N	MEDSPECL
MS	MARITAL STATUS	1970–	1	C	$MSL
NBS	NUMBER OF BED SECTIONS	1984–	4	N	
NDX	NUMBER OF DIAGNOSTIC SEGMENTS	1970–83	2	N	
NDXM	NO. OF DIAGNOSES – MASTER FILE	1987–	2	N	
NPROC	NUMBER OF PROCEDURE SEGMENTS	1970–83	2	N	
NPROC	NUMBER OF PROCEDURE SEGMENTS	1989–	2	N	
NSURG	NUMBER OF OPERATIONS	1970–	2	N	
NXFER	NO. OF TRANSFER SEGMENTS	1991–	2	N	
OD	OLD MEDICAL DISTRICT	1985	2	N	
OPT	DISCHARGE TO OUTPATIENT?	1970–	2	N	OPTL
OR	OLD REGION	1985	2	N	
PASS	DAYS ON PASS	1984–	4	N	
PLCDR	PHYSICAL LOCATION CDR	1991–	4	N	
PLDISCH	PHYSICAL LOCATION CODE	1991–	2	N	BEDSECN
POW	PRISONER OF WAR STATUS	1976–	2	N	POWL
PROC1–PROC5	1ST – 5TH NON–SURGICAL PROCEDURE	1984–88	5	C	
PSEUD	PSEUDO SSN INDICATOR	1984–	1	C	
PSRCD	PERIOD OF SERVICE	1970–	2	N	PSRCDL
PSX	PERIOD OF SERVICE	1970–	1	C	$PSXL
RACE	RACE OR NATIONAL ORIGIN	1970–	2	N	RACEL
RAD	RADIATION EXPOSURE	1982–	2	N	RADL
REGDIV	REGIONAL DIVISION	1991–95	2	N	REGIONL
REGION	MEDICAL REGION	1970–95	2	N	REGIONL
SCI	SPINAL CORD INJURY STATUS	1970–	1	C	$SCIL
SCPER	PERCENT SERVICE–CONNECTED	1991–	2	N	

Variable	Label	Fiscal Years	Bytes	Type*	Format
SCRSSN	SCRAMBLED SOCIAL SECURITY	1986–	6	N	SSN11
SEX	SEX	1970–	1	C	$SEXL
SOURCE	SOURCE OF ADMISSION	1970–	2	C	$SOURCEL
SRTKEY	SORT KEY	1984–	4	N	
SSN	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	1970–85	6	N	SSN
STAFIX	STATION SUFFIX	1981–82	3	C	
STAFROM	SOURCE STATION	1984–	6	C	$STA6AL
STATYP	STATION TYPE	1977–83	2	N	STATYPL
STA3N	STATION	1970–	4	N	STA3NL
STA6A	ADMITTING STATION	1970–80	6	C	$STA6AL
	DISCHARGING STATION	1970–	6	C	$STA6AL
SURGCOD1–SURGCOD5	$1^{ST} – 5^{TH}$ SURGICAL CODE	1970–80	5	C	
SURGDAY	DATE OF FIRST SURGERY	1970–83	4	N	DATE
SURGNAST	CATEGORY OF FIRST SURG. ASSISTANT	1970–83	2	N	SURGNTPL
SURGNSSN	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OF SURGEON	1970–83	6	N	SSN
SURGTYP	CATEGORY OF CHIEF SURGEON	1970–83	2	N	SURGNTPL
SURGSPEC	SURGICAL SPECIALITY	1970–83	2	N	MEDSPECL
SURG9CD1–SURG9CD5	$1^{ST} – 5^{TH}$ SURGICAL CODE	1981–83	5	C	
SUICIDE	SUICIDE INDICATION	1992–94	2	N	SUICIDE
TOSTA	RECEIVING STATION	1981–82	4	N	
TOSTAFIX	SUFFIX OF RECEIVING STATION	1981–82	3	C	
TOSTA6A	RECEIVING STATION	1970–	6	C	$STA6AL
TYPPAT1	TYPE PATIENT (PRIMARY)	1970–80	2	N	TYPPATL
TYPPAT2	TYPE PATIENT (SECONDARY)	1970–80	2	N	TYPPATL
TYPPAT91	TYPE OF PATIENT (PRIMARY)	1981–83	2	N	TYPPAT9L
TYPPAT92	TYPE OF PATIENT (SECONDARY)	1981–83	2	N	TYPPAT9L
UPDATDAY	LAST DATE RECORD UPDATED	1992–	4	N	DATE9
VAAUS	DISCHARGE TO VA AUSPICES	1970–	2	N	VAAUSL
VAHPMT	OUTSIDE PAYMENT FOR SURGERY	1970–83	1	C	$VAHPMTL
VISN	VETS INTEGRATED SERVICE NETWORK	1995–	2	N	
ZIP	ZIP CODE	1976–	4	N	

* N = Numeric; C = Character

ACUTE BED SECTION (PB) variables from FY 1984 – FY 2002

Variable	Label	Fiscal Years	Bytes	Type*	Format
ADMITDAY	DATE OF ADMISSION	1984 –	4	N	DATE7
ADTIME	TIME OF ADMISSION	1991–	4	N	
AGOCARE	AGENT ORANGE CARE	1994–	1	C	$YESNO
AXIS4B	PSYCHIATRY AXIS IV	1992–	2	N	AXISIV
AXIS51B	PSYCH AXIS_V (CURRENT)	1992–	2	N	AXISV
AXIS52B	PSYCH AXIS_V (HIGHEST)	1992–	2	N	AXISV
BDRGA	BED SECTION DX RELAT	1984–84	4	N	DRGSHORT
BDRGG	BED SECTION DIAGNOSIS	1984–85	4	N	DRGSHORT
BEDCDR	BED SECTION CDR CODE	1991–	4	N	
BEDSECN	BED SECTION	1984–	2	N	BEDSECN
BMDCA	BED SECTION MAJOR DX	1984	2	N	MDCL
BMDCG	BED SECTION MAJ–D	1984–85	2	N	MDCL
BSINDAY	DAY ADMITTED TO BED SECTION	1984–	4	N	DATE7
BSOUTDAY	DAY TRANSFERED FROM BED SECTION	1984–	4	N	DATE7
BSOUTIME	TIME TRANSFERED FROM BED SECTION	1991–	4	N	
BSSQ	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER OF BED SECTION	1984–	4	N	
BSTA6A	SUBSTATION OF BED SECTION	1984–	6	C	$STA6AL
DISDAY	DATE OF DISCHARGE	1984–	4	N	DATE7
DISTIME	TIME OF DISCHARGE	1991–	4	N	
DISTRICT	MEDICAL DISTRICT	1984–90	2	N	
DISTYPE	TYPE OF DISCHARGE	1984–	2	N	DISTYPEL
DRGB	DRG FOR BED SECTION	1986–	3	N	DRGSHORT
DRUGB	SUBSTANCE ABUSE	1992–	28	C	$DRUG
DXB2–DXB5	2^{ND} – 5^{TH} DX – BED SECTION	1987–	6	C	
DXLSB	DX LOS – BED SECTION	1987–	6	C	
DXLSB120	DX LOS – BED SECTION	1987–	2	C	$DX9ANL24
DXLSB32	DX LOS – BED SECTION	1987–	2	N	DX9RL26
DXLSF	DX LOS – FULL STAY	1987–	6	C	
DXLSF120	DX LOS – FULL STAY	1987–	2	C	$DX9ANL24
DXLSF32	DX LOS – FULL STAY	1987–	2	N	DX9RL26
DXPAN	PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS	1984–86	2	C	$DX9ANL
DXPFULL	PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS	1984–86	5	C	
DXPRIME	PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS (ICD9)	1997–	6	C	
DX9AN1	1ST DIAGNOSIS	1984–86	2	C	$DX9ANL

Variable	Label	Fiscal Years	Bytes	Type*	Format
DX9FULL1–DX9FULL5	1ST – 5TH DIAGNOSTIC CODE	1984–86	5	C	
DX9R1	1ST DIAGNOSIS	1984–86	2	N	DX9RL
ENVCARE	ENVIRONMENTAL CARE	1992–	1	C	$YESNO
IRDCARE	RADIATION CARE	1992–	1	C	$YESNO
LEGIONB	LEGIONNAIRE'S DISEASE	1992–	2	N	YESNO
LS	LENGTH OF STAY ALL BED SECTION	1984–	4	N	
LSB	LENGTH OF STAY IN BED SECTION	1984–	4	N	
LSBR	RECODED LENGTH OF STAY IN BED SECTION	1984–95	2	N	LSRL
LVB	LEAVE DAYS IN BED SECTION	1984–91	4	N	
MDCB	MDC FOR BED SECTION	1986–	2	N	MDCL
NBS	NUMBER OF BED SECTIONS	1984–	4	N	
NDXB	NUMBER OF DIAGNOSES – BED SECTION	1987–95	2	N	
NPROC	NUMBER OF PROCEDURE SEGMENTS	1991–	2	N	
NSURG	NUMBER OF OPERATIONS	1984–	2	N	
NXFER	NUMBER OF TRANSFER SEGMENTS	1991–	2	N	
PASSB	PASS DAYS IN BED SECTION	1984–	4	N	
PLBED	PHYSICAL LOCATION CODE	1991–	2	N	BEDSECN
PLCDRB	PHYSICAL LOCATION CDR	1991–	4	N	
REGDIV	REGIONAL DIVISION	1991–94	2	N	REGIONL
REGION	MEDICAL REGION	1984–95	2	N	REGIONL
SCI	SPINAL CORD INJURY STATUS	1984–	1	C	$SCIL
SCRSSN	SCRAMBLED SOCIAL SECURITY	1986–	6	N	SSN11
SRTKEY	SORT KEY	1984–	4	N	
SSN	SOCIAL SECURITY	1984–85	6	N	SSN
STA3N	STATION (PARENT)	1984–	4	N	STA3NL
SUICIDEB	SUICIDE INDICATOR	1992–	2	N	SUICIDE
SVCCONB	SERVICE CONNECTED	1992–	2	N	YESNO
VISN	VETS INTEGRATED SERVICE NETWORK	1997–	2	N	

* N = Numeric; C = Character

ACUTE PROCEDURE (PP) variables from FY 1988 – FY 2002

Variable	Label	Fiscal Years	Bytes	Type*	Format
ADMITDAY	DATE OF ADMISSION	1988–	4	N	DATE9
ADTIME	TIME OF ADMISSION	1991–	4	N	
BEDSECN	BED SECTION	1988–			
DISDAY	DATE OF DISCHARGE	1988–	4	N	
DISTIME	TIME OF DISCHARGE	1991–	4	N	
DISTRICT	MEDICAL DISTRICT	1988–90	2	N	
DISTYPE	TYPE OF DISCHARGE	1988–	2	N	DISTYPEL
DXLSF	DX LOS – FULL STAY	1988–	6	C	
DXLSF120	DX LOS – FULL STAY	1988–	2	C	$DX9ANL24
DXLSF32	DX LOS – FULL STAY	1988–	2	N	DX9RL26
NCODES	NUMBER OF PROCEDURE CODES	1988–	2	N	
NPROC	NUMBER OF PROCEDURE SEGMENTS	1988–	2	N	
NTREAT	NUMBER OF DIALYSIS TREATMENTS	1988–	2	N	
PSEQ	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER OF PROCEDURE SEGMENT	1988–	2	N	
PROCDAY	DATE OF PROCEDURE	1988–	4	N	DATE9
PROCDE1–PROCDE5	1^{ST} – 5^{TH} NON–SURGICAL PROCEDURE	1988–	5	C	
PROCTIME	TIME OF PROCEDURE	1991–			
REGDIV	REGIONAL DIVISION	1991–95	2	N	REGIONL
REGION	MEDICAL REGION	1988–95	2	N	REGIONL
SCRSSN	SCRAMBLED SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	1988–	6	N	SSN11
SRTKEY	SORT KEY	1988–	4	N	
STA3N	STATION	1988–	4	N	STA3NL
STA6A	DISCHARGING STATION	1988–	6	C	$STA6AL
VISN	VETS INTEGRATED SERVICE NETWORK	1995–	2	N	

* N = Numeric; C = Character

ACUTE SURGERY (PS) variables from FY 1984 – FY 2002

Variable	Label	Fiscal Years	Bytes	Type*	Format
ADMITDAY	DATE OF ADMISSION	1984–	4	N	DATE9
ADTIME	TIME OF ADMISSION	1991–	4	N	
ANESTE1K	ANESTHETIC TECHNIQUE	1984–	1	C	$ANESTKL
DISDAY	DATE OF DISCHARGE	1984–	4	N	DATE9
DISTRICT	MEDICAL DISTRICT	1984–	2	N	
DISTYPE	TYPE OF DISCHARGE	1984–	2	N	DISTYPEL
DXLSF	DX LOS – FULL STAY	1987–	6	C	
DXLSF120	DX LOS – FULL STAY	1987–	2	C	$DX9ANL24
DXLSF32	DX LOS – FULL STAY	1987–	2	N	DX9RL26
DXPAN	DX CAUSING MOST OF STAY	1984–86	2	C	$DX9ANL
DXFULL	DIAGNOSIS CAUSING MOST OF STAY	1984–86	5	C	
NSURG	NUMBER OF SURGICAL OPERATIONS	1984–	2	N	
NVASURG	NON–VA SURGERY	1984–	2	N	NVASURGL
REGDIV	REGIONAL DIVISION	1991–95	2	N	REGIONL
REGION	MEDICAL REGION	1984–95	2	N	REGIONL
SCRSSN	SCRAMBLED SOCIAL SECURITY	1986–	6	N	SSN11
SGR1	99–RECODE OF SURG9 CD1	1984–	2	N	SG999L
SGSQ	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	1984–	2	N	
SRTKEY	SORT KEY	1984–	4	N	
SSN	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	1984–85	6	N	SSN
SSTA6A	SUBSTATION OF SURGERY	1984–	6	C	$STA6AL
STA3N	PARENT STATION	1984–	4	N	STA3NL
SURGDAY	DATE OF SURGERY	1984–	4	N	DATE9
SURGNAST	CATEGORY OF FRIST SURG ASSIST	1984–	2	N	SURGNTPL
SURGNCAT	CATEGORY OF CHIEF SURGEON	1984–	1	C	$SGNCATL
SURGSPEC	SURGICAL SPECIALTY	1984–	2	N	BEDSECN
SURGTIME	TIME OF SURGERY	1991–	4	N	
SURG9CD1–SURG9CD5	1^{ST}–5^{TH} SURGERY CODE	1984–	5	C	
TSTAT	TRANSPLANT STATUS	1992–	2	N	TRASPL
VISN	VETS INTEGRATED SERVICE NETWORK	1995–	2	N	

* N = Numeric; C = Character

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Appendix B: Comprehensive Listing of All Historic Datasets

(The listing begins on the next page)

ACUTE CARE MAIN (PM) DATASETS from FY1970 – FY2002

Dataset Name	Fiscal Years	Effective Area	Comment
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PMyy	1984–To Date	National	Known as the "Non-Extended Care Main" dataset. Contains information for the entire length of stay.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PMyyQTRn	1998–To Date	National	Quarterly data 1–4
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.PMyy	2001–To Date	National	Revised datasets
MDPPRD.MDP.PTF.PMyyG	1982–1983	National	Previous "Non-Extended Care Main" dataset.
MDPPRD.MDP.PTF.PMyy	1970–1981	National	Original "Non-Extended Care Main" dataset.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PMyyRn	1991–To Date	Regional	VA was divided into four geographic regions, The definition changed in FY1995. Now region 1 is VISN 1–5, region 2 is VISN 6–10, region 3 IS VISN 11–16 and region 4 is VISN 17–22.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.PMyyRn	2001–To Date	Regional	Revised datasets
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.RGr.VAH.PMyyRr	1985–1990	Regional	VA was divided into sevend geographic regions.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.RGr.VAH.PMyyRr	1984	Regional	VA was divided into six geographic regions.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PMyyQTRn	1998–To Date	National	Quarterly data 1–4

ACUTE CARE PROCEDURE (PP) DATASETS from FY1988 – FY2002

Dataset Name	Fiscal Years	Effective Area	Comment
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PPyy	1988–To Date	National	Known as the ”Non-Extended Care Procedure" dataset. Contains information based on one day of stay. Number of records for one day = number of procedures that day divided by 5, plus one for any remainder.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PPyyQTRn	1998–To Date	National	Quarterly data 1–4
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.PPyy	2001–To Date	National	Revised datasets
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PPyyRn	1991–To Date	Regional	VA was divided into four geographic regions. This definition changed in FY1995. Now region 1 is VISN 1–5, region 2 is VISN 6–10, region 3 is VISN 11–16 and region 4 is VISN 17–22.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.PPyy.Rn	2001–To Date	Regional	Revised quarterly datasets
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.RGr.VAH. PPyyRr	1988–1990	Regional	VA was divided into seven geographic regions.

ACUTE CARE BED SECTION (PB) DATASETS from FY1984 – FY2002

Dataset Name	Fiscal Years	Effective Area	Comment
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PByy	1984–To Date	National	Known as the "Non-Extended Care Bed Section" dataset. There is one record for each bed section admission.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PByyQTRn	1998–To Date	National	Quarterly data 1–4
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.PByy	2001–To Date	National	Revised datasets
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PByyRn	1991–To Date	Regional	VA was divided into four geographic regions. This definition changed in FY1995. Now region 1 is VISN 1–5, region 2 is VISN 6–10, region 3 is VISN 11–16 and region 4 is VISN 17–22.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.PByy.Rn	2001–To Date	Regional	Revised quarterly datasets
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.RGn.VAH.PByyRn	1985–1990	Regional	VA was divided into seven geographic regions
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.RGn.VAH.PByyRn	1984	Regional	VA was divided into six geographic regions in 1984 and then seven regions from FY1985–90.

ACUTE CARE SURGERY (PS) DATASETS from FY1984 – FY2002

Dataset Name	Fiscal Years	Effective Area	Comment
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PSyy	1984–1999	National	Known as the "Non-Extended Care Surgery" dataset. There is one record for up to five surgical procedures per surgery day.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PSyyQTRn	1998–To Date	National	Quarterly data 1–4
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.PSyy	2001–To Date	National	Revised datasets
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PSyyRn	1991–To Date	Regional	VA was divided into four geographic regions. This definition changed in FY1995. Now region 1 is VISN 1–5, region 2 is VISN 6–10, region 3 is VISN 11–16 and region 4 is VISN 17–22.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.PSyy.Rn	2001–To Date	Regional	Revised quarterly datasets
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.RGn.VAH.PSyyRn	1985–1990	Regional	VA was divided into seven geographic regions.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.RGn.VAH.PSyyRn	1984	Regional	VA was divided into six geographic regions in FY1984 and then seven regions from FY1985–90.

EXTENDED CARE MAIN (XM) DATASETS from FY1984 – FY2002

Dataset Name	Fiscal Years	Effective Area	Comment
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.XMyy	1986–To Date	National	Known as the "Extended Care Main" dataset. Contains information for the entire length of stay.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.XMyyQTRn	1998–To Date	National	Quarterly data 1–4.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.XMyy	2001–To Date	Regional	Revised datasets
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.XMyyRn	1991–To Date	Regional	VA was divided into four geographic regions. This definition changed in FY1995. Now region 1 is VISN 1–5, region 2 is VISN 6–10, region 3 is VISN 11–16 and region 4 is VISN 17–22.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.RGr.VAH.XMyyRr	1985–1990	Regional	VA was divided into seven geographic regions.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.RGr.VAH.XMyyRr	1984	Regional	VA was divided into six geographic regions.

EXTENDED CARE PROCEDURE (XP) DATASETS from FY1986 – FY2002

Dataset Name	Fiscal Years	Effective Area	Comment
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.XPyy	1986–To Date	National	Known as the "Extended Care Procedure" dataset. Contains information based on one day of stay. Number of records for one day = number of procedures that day divided by 5, plus one for any remainder.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.XPyy.QTRn	1998–To Date	National	Quarterly data 1–4.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.XPyy	2001–To Date	Regional	Revised datasets
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.XPyyRn	1991–To Date	Regional	VA was divided into four geographic regions. This definition changed in FY1995. Now region 1 is VISN 1–5, region 2 is VISN 6–10, region 3 is VISN 11–16 and region 4 is VISN 17–22.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.RGr.VAH. XPyyRr	1988–1990	Regional	VA was divided into seven geographic regions.

EXTENDED CARE BED SECTION (XB) DATASETS from FY1984 – FY2002

Dataset Name	Fiscal Years	Effective Area	Comment
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.XByy	1986–To Date	National	Known as the "Extended Care Bed Section" dataset. There is one record for each bed section admission.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.XByy	2001–To Date	National	Revised datasets
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.XByyQTRn	1998–To Date	National	Quarterly data 1–4.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.XByyRn	1991–To Date	Regional	VA was divided into four geographic regions. This definition changed in FY1995. Now region 1 is VISN 1–5, region 2 is VISN 6–10, region 3 is VISN 11–16 and region 4 is VISN 17–22.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.RGn.VAH.XByyRn	1985–1990	Regional	VA was divided into seven geographic regions.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.RGn.VAH.XByyRn	1984	Regional	VA was divided into six geographic regions in FY1984 and then seven regions from FY1985–90.

EXTENDED CARE SURGERY (XS) DATASETS from FY1984 – FY2002

Dataset Name	Fiscal Years	Effective Area	Comment
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.XSyy	1986–To Date	National	Known as the "Extended Care Surgery" dataset. There is one record for up to five surgical procedures per surgery day.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.XSyy	2001–To Date	National	Revised datasets
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.XSyyQTRn	1998–To Date	National	Quarterly data 1–4.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.XSyyRn	1991–To Date	Regional	VA was divided into four geographic regions. This definition changed in FY1995. Now region 1 is VISN 1–5, region 2 is VISN 6–10, region 3 is VISN 11–16 and region 4 is VISN 17–22.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.RGn.VAH.XSyyRn	1985–1990	Regional	VA was divided into seven geographic regions.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.RGn.VAH.XSyyRn	1984	Regional	VA was divided into six geographic regions in FY1984 and then seven regions from FY1985–90.

OBSERVATION CARE MAIN (PMO) DATASETS from FY1998 – FY2002

Dataset Name	Fiscal Years	Effective Area	Comment
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PMOyy	1998–To Date	National	Known as the "Observation Care Main" dataset. Contains information for the entire length of stay (23–hour).
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.PMOyy	2001–To Date	National	Revised datasets
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PMOyyRn	1998–To Date	Regional	VA was divided into four geographic regions. This definition changed in FY1995. Now region 1 is VISN 1–5, region 2 is VISN 6–10, region 3 is VISN 11–16 and region 4 is VISN 17–22.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.PMOyyRn	2001–To Date	Regional	Revised datasets
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PMOyyQTRn	1998–To Date	National	Quarterly data 1–4.

OBSERVATION CARE BED SECTION (PBO) DATASETS from FY1988 – FY2002

Dataset Name	Fiscal Years	Effective Area	Comment
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PBOyy	1998–To Date	National	Known as the “Observation Care Bed Section" dataset. There is one record for each bed section admission.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.PBOyy	2001–To Date	National	Revised datasets
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PBOyyRn	1998–To Date	Regional	VA was divided into four geographic regions. This definition changed in FY1995. Now region 1 is VISN 1–5, region 2 is VISN 6–10, region 3 is VISN 11–16 and region 4 is VISN 17–22.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.PBOyyRn	2001–To Date	Regional	Revised datasets
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PBOyyQTRn	1998–To Date	National	Quarterly Data 1–4

OBSERVATION CARE PROCEDURE (PPO) DATASETS from FY1988 – FY2002

Dataset Name	Fiscal Years	Effective Area	Comment
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PPOyy	1998–To Date	National	Known as the "Observation Care Procedure" dataset. Contains information based on one day of stay. Number of records for one day = number of procedures that day divided by 5, plus one for any remainder.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.PPOyy	2001–To Date	National	Revised datasets
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PPOyyRn	1998–To Date	Regional	VA was divided into four geographic regions. This definition changed in FY1995. Now region 1 is VISN 1–5, region 2 is VISN 6–10, region 3 is VISN 11–16 and region 4 is VISN 17–22.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.PPOyyRn	2001–To Date	Regional	Revised datasets
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PPOyyQTRn	1998–To Date	National	Quarterly data 1–4.

NON-VA CARE MAIN (NM) DATASETS from FY1986 – FY2002

Dataset Name	Fiscal Years	Effective Area	Comment
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.NMyy	1986–To Date	National	Known as the Non-VA Care Main" dataset. Contains information for the entire length of stay.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.NMyy	2001–To Date	National	Revised datasets
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.NMyyRn	1991–To Date	Regional	VA was divided into four geographic regions. This definition changed in FY1995. Now region 1 is VISN 1–5, region 2 is VISN 6–10, region 3 is VISN 11–16 and region 4 is VISN 17–22.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.NMyyQTRn	1998–To Date	National	Quarterly data 1–4.

NON-VA CARE BED SECTION (NB) DATASETS from FY1987 – FY2002

Dataset Name	Fiscal Years	Effective Area	Comment
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.NByy	1987–To Date	National	Known as the "Non-VA Care Bed Section" dataset. There is one record for each bed section admission.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.NByy	2001–To Date	National	Revised datasets
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.NByyRn	1991–To Date	Regional	VA was divided into four geographic regions. This definition changed in FY1995. Now region 1 is VISN 1–5, region 2 is VISN 6–10, region 3 is VISN 11–16 and region 4 is VISN 17–22.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.NByyQTRn	FY98–To Date	National	Quarterly data 1–4.

NON-VA CARE PROCEDURE (NP) DATASETS from FY1988 – FY2002

Dataset Name	Fiscal Years	Effective Area	Comment
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.NPyy	1988–To Date	National	Known as the "Non-VA Care Procedure" dataset. Contains information based on one day of stay. Number of records for one day = number of procedures that day divided by 5, plus one for any remainder.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.NPyy	2001–To Date	National	Revised datasets
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.NPyyRn	1991–To Date	Regional	VA was divided into four geographic regions. This definition changed in FY1995. Now region 1 is VISN 1–5, region 2 is VISN 6–10, region 3 is VISN 11–16 and region 4 is VISN 17–22.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.PPyyQTRn	1998–To Date	National	Quarterly data 1–4.

NON-VA CARE SURGERY (NS) DATASETS from FY1986 – FY2002

Dataset Name	Fiscal Years	Effective Area	Comment
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.NSyy	1986–To Date	National	Known as the "Non-VA Care Surgery" dataset. There is one record for up to five surgical procedures per surgery day.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.REVISED.NSyy	2001–To Date	National	Revised datasets
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.NSyyRn	1991–To Date	Regional	VA was divided into four geographic regions. This definition changed in FY1995. Now region 1 is VISN 1–5, region 2 is VISN 6–10, region 3 is VISN 11–16 and region 4 is VISN 17–22.
MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.NSyyQTRn	1998–To Date	National	Quarterly data 1–4.

Appendix C: Values for Selected Variables

(Values and their descriptions begin on the following page.)

AXIS51B and **AXIS52B** can assume the following values:*

Values	Descriptions
1 – 10	Persistent danger of severely hurting self or others (e.g. recurrent violence) OR persistent inability to maintain minimal personal hygiene OR serious suicidal act with a clear expectation of death.
11 – 20	Some danger of hurting self or others (e.g., suicide attempts without clear expectations of death, frequently violent, manic excitement) OR occasionally fails to maintain minimal personal hygiene (e.g., smears feces) OR gross impairment in communication (e.g., largely incoherent or mute).
21 – 30	Behavior is considerably influenced by delusions or hallucinations OR serious impairment in communication or judgment (e.g., sometimes incoherent, acts grossly inappropriately, suicidal preoccupation) OR inability to function in almost all areas (e.g., stays in bed all day, no job, home or friends).
31 – 40	Some impairment in reality testing or communication (e.g., speech is at times illogical, obscure or irrelevant) OR major impairment in several areas, such as work or school, family relations, judgment, thinking, or mood (e.g., depressed man avoids friend, neglects family, and is unable to work; child frequently beats up younger children, is defiant at home and is failing at school).
41 – 50	Serious symptoms (e.g., suicidal ideation, severe obsessional rituals, frequent shoplifting) OR any serious impairment in social, occupational, or school functioning (e.g., no friends, unable to keep a job).
51 – 60	Moderate symptoms (e.g., flat affect and circumstantial speech, occasional panic attacks) OR moderate difficulty in social, occupational or school functioning (e.g., few friends, conflicts with co–workers).
61 – 70	Some mild symptoms (e.g., depressed mood and mild insomnia) OR some difficulty in social, occupational or school functioning (e.g., occasional truancy, or theft within the household), but generally functioning pretty well, has some meaningful, interpersonal relationships.
71 – 80	If symptoms are present, they are transient and expectable reactions to psychosocial stressors (e.g., difficulty concentrating after family argument); no more than slight impairment in social, occupational, or school functioning (e.g., temporarily falling behind in school work).
81 – 90	Absent or minimal symptoms (e.g., mild anxiety before an exam), good functioning in all areas, interested and involved in a wide range of activities, socially effective, generally satisfied with life, no more than everyday problems or concerns (e.g., an occasional argument with family members).

91 – 100	Superior functioning in a wide range of activities, life's problems never seem to get out of hand, is sought out by others because of his or her many positive qualities. No symptoms.

*Please note that the above scale represents the current GAF interpretations and that the format for print values at the AAC, AXISV. is not current.

BEDCDR can assume the following values:*

Value	Description
111000	General Medicine
111100	Neurology
111300	Rehabilitation
111400	Epilepsy Center
111500	Blind Rehabilitation
111600	Spinal Cord Injury
111700	Medical Intensive Care Units
112000	Geriatric Evaluation and Management (GEM) Unit
121000	Surgical Ward Cost
121100	Surgical Intensive Care Unit
121200	Operating / Recovery Room
131000	Psychiatric Ward Cost
131100	Alcohol Dependence Treatment Program
131200	Drug Dependence Treatment Program
131300	Substance Abuse Treatment Program
131400	Spec Inpatient Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Unit – Intermediate Care
131500	Evaluation / Brief Treatment PTSD Unit – High Intensity
131600	Sustained Treatment and Rehabilitation (STAR) I, II, & III Programs
131700	Substance Abuse – STAR I / II / III
132000	GEM Unit – Psychiatry Beds
141000	VA Nursing Home Care
142000	GEM Unit – VA Nursing Home
151000	Domiciliary Bed Section
151100	Domiciliary Substance Abuse
151200	Domiciliary PTSD
161000	Intermediate Care
162000	GEM Intermediate Care
171100	PTSD Residence Rehabilitation Treatment Program (PRRTP)
171200	PTSD Residence Rehabilitation Program (PRRP)
171300	Substance Abuse Residence Rehabilitation Treatment Program (SARRTP)
171400	Healthcare for Mentally Ill (HCMI) Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) / Trans Residences
171500	Substance Abuse CWT / Trans Residences
311000	Contract Hospital – Medical
321000	Contract Hospital – Surgical
331000	Contract Hospital – Psychiatric
341000	Community Nursing Home
341100	State Home Nursing Home Care
351000	State Domiciliary Home Care

Value	Description
352000	Contract Homeless Chronically Mentally Ill
352100	Contract Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation
361000	State Home Hospital Care
361100	Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA)

*Also available at the HERC Web site.

BEDSECN can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	Allergy
2	Cardiology
3	Pulmonary Tuberculosis (TB)
4	Pulmonary Non-TB
5	Gerontology
6	Dermatology
7	Endocrinology
8	Gastroenterology
9	Hematology / Oncology
10	Neurology
11	Epilepsy Center
12	Medical Intensive Care Unit
14	Metabolic
15	General (Acute) Medicine
16	Cardiac Step Down
17	Telemetry
19	Neurology Off Board Server (OBS)
20	Rehabilitation Medicine
21	Blind Rehabilitation
22	Spinal Cord Injury
25	Psychiatric Residence Rehabilitation Treatment
27	Substance Abuse Residence Rehabilitation
29	Substance Abuse Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) / Trans
31	Geriatric Evaluation and Management (GEM) Acute Medicine
32	GEM Intermediate
33	GEM Psychiatry
34	GEM Neurology
35	GEM Rehabilitation
36	Blind Rehabilitation OBS
37	Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV)
38	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) / CWT / TR
39	General CWT / TR
40	Intermediate Medicine
41	Rehabilitation Medicine OBS
50	Surgery (General)
51	Gynecology
52	Neurosurgery
53	Ophthalmology
54	Orthopedic
55	Ear, Nose, & Throat
56	Plastic Surgery

Value	Description
57	Proctology
58	Thoracic Surgery
59	Urology
60	Oral Surgery
61	Podiatry
62	Peripheral Vascular
63	Surgical Intensive Care Unit
65	Surgical OBS
70	Acute Psychiatry
71	Long-Term Psychiatry
72	Alcohol Dependency – High Intensity
73	Drug Dependency – High Intensity
74	Substance Abuse – High Intensity
75	Halfway House
76	Psychiatric Medically Infirm
77	Psychiatric Residence Rehabilitation
79	Special Inpatient PTSD Unit
80	Nursing Home Care
81	GEM Nursing Home Care Unit (NHCU)
83	Respite Care
84	Psychiatric Substance Abuse (Intermediate Care)
85	Domiciliary
86	Domiciliary Substance Abuse
87	GEM Domiciliary
88	Domiciliary PTSD
89	Sustained Treatment and Rehabilitation (STAR) I, II, & III Programs
90	Substance Abuse Star I, II, & III
91	Evaluation / Brief Treatment PTSD
92	Psychiatry – General Intervention
93	High Intensity General Psychiatry - Inpatient
94	Psychiatric OBS
95	NHCU – Long-Term Care
96	NHCU – Hospice Long-Term Care
98	Non-Department of Defense (DOD) Beds
99	DOD Beds

DISTO can assume the following values:

Value	Description
-3	Irregular
-2	Death
-1	Return to community-independent
0	VA medical center
1	Military hospital
2	Other Federal hospital
3	Other Government hospital (state, county, city, and state)
4	Community hospital
5	VA Nursing Home Care Unit (NHCU)
7	Community Nursing Home (CNH)
9	Same CNH
10	Other CNH
11	State Home – nursing care
12	VA domiciliary
13	State Home – domiciliary care
14	Restoration Center
15	Foster Home
16	Halfway House
17	Boarding House
19	Penal Institute
20	Residential hotel / resident (e.g., YMCA)
21	Other Placement
22	Unknown
25	Hospital Based Home Care – VA Central Office approved program
27	Spinal Cord Injury – VA Central Office approved program only
29	Respite Care
30	Hospice Care
34	Medicare Home Health
35	Other-AG Home Health

DRG can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	Craniotomy age >17 except for trauma
2	Craniotomy for trauma age >17
3	Craniotomy age 0-17
4	Spinal procedures
5	Extracranial vascular procedures
6	Carpal tunnel release
7	Periph & cranial nerve & other nerv syst proc w CC
8	Periph & cranial nerve & other nerv syst proc w/o CC
9	Spinal disorders & injuries
10	Nervous system neoplasms w CC
11	Nervous system neoplasms w/o CC
12	Degenerative nervous system disorders
13	Multiple sclerosis & cerebellar ataxia
14	Specific cerebrovascular disorders except tia
15	Transient ischemic attack & precerebral occlusions
16	Nonspecific cerebrovascular disorders w CC
17	Nonspecific cerebrovascular disorders w/o CC
18	Cranial & peripheral nerve disorders w CC
19	Cranial & peripheral nerve disorders w/o CC
20	Nervous system infection except viral meningitis
21	Viral meningitis
22	Hypertensive encephalopathy
23	Nontraumatic stupor & coma
24	Seizure & headache age >17 w CC
25	Seizure & headache age >17 w/o CC
26	Seizure & headache age 0-17
27	Traumatic stupor & coma, coma >1 hr
28	Traumatic stupor & coma, coma <1 hr age >17 w CC
29	Traumatic stupor & coma, coma <1 hr age >17 w/o CC
30	Traumatic stupor & coma, coma <1 hr age 0-17
31	Concussion age >17 w CC
32	Concussion age >17 w/o CC
33	Concussion age 0-17
34	Other disorders of nervous system w CC
35	Other disorders of nervous system w/o CC
36	Retinal procedures
37	Orbital procedures
38	Primary iris procedures
39	Lens procedures with or without vitrectomy
40	Extraocular procedures except orbit age >17

Value	Description
41	Extraocular procedures except orbit age 0-17
42	Intraocular procedures except retina, iris & lens
43	Hyphema
44	Acute major eye infections
45	Neurological eye disorders
46	Other disorders of the eye age >17 w CC
47	Other disorders of the eye age >17 w/o CC
48	Other disorders of the eye age 0-17
49	Major head & neck procedures
50	Sialoadenectomy
51	Salivary gland procedures except sialoadenectomy
52	Cleft lip & palate repair
53	Sinus & mastoid procedures age >17
54	Sinus & mastoid procedures age 0-17
55	Miscellaneous ear, nose, mouth & throat procedures
56	Rhinoplasty
57	T&A proc, except tonsillectomy &/or adenoidectomy only, age >17
58	T&A proc, except tonsillectomy &/or adenoidectomy only, age 0-17
59	Tonsillectomy &/or adenoidectomy only, age >17
60	Tonsillectomy &/or adenoidectomy only, age 0-17
61	Myringotomy w tube insertion age >17
62	Myringotomy w tube insertion age 0-17
63	Other ear, nose, mouth & throat O.R. procedures
64	Ear, nose, mouth & throat malignancy
65	Dysequilibrium
66	Epistaxis
67	Epiglottitis
68	Otitis media & uri age >17 w CC
69	Otitis media & uri age >17 w/o CC
70	Otitis media & uri age 0-17
71	Laryngotracheitis
72	Nasal trauma & deformity
73	Other ear, nose, mouth & throat diagnoses age >17
74	Other ear, nose, mouth & throat diagnoses age 0-17
75	Major chest procedures
76	Other resp system O.R. procedures w CC
77	Other resp system O.R. procedures w/o CC
78	Pulmonary embolism
79	Respiratory infections & inflammations age >17 w CC
80	Respiratory infections & inflammations age >17 w/o CC
81	Respiratory infections & inflammations age 0-17
82	Respiratory neoplasms

Value	Description
83	Major chest trauma w CC
84	Major chest trauma w/o CC
85	Pleural effusion w CC
86	Pleural effusion w/o CC
87	Pulmonary edema & respiratory failure
88	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
89	Simple pneumonia & pleurisy age >17 w CC
90	Simple pneumonia & pleurisy age >17 w/o CC
91	Simple pneumonia & pleurisy age 0-17
92	Interstitial lung disease w CC
93	Interstitial lung disease w/o CC
94	Pneumothorax w CC
95	Pneumothorax w/o CC
96	Bronchitis & asthma age >17 w CC
97	Bronchitis & asthma age >17 w/o CC
98	Bronchitis & asthma age 0-17
99	Respiratory signs & symptoms w CC
100	Respiratory signs & symptoms w/o CC
101	Other respiratory system diagnoses w CC
102	Other respiratory system diagnoses w/o CC
103	Heart transplant
104	Cardiac valve & other major cardiothoracic proc w cardiac cath
105	Cardiac valve & other major cardiothoracic proc w/o cardiac cath
106	Coronary bypass w ptca
107	Coronary bypass w cardiac cath
108	Other cardiothoracic procedures
109	Coronary bypass w/o cardiac cath
110	Major cardiovascular procedures w CC
111	Major cardiovascular procedures w/o CC
113	Amputation for circ system disorders except upper limb & toe
114	Upper limb & toe amputation for circ system disorders
115	Prm card pacem impl w ami,hrt fail or shk,or aicd lead or gnrtr proc
116	Other permanent cardiac pacemaker implant
117	Cardiac pacemaker revision except device replacement
118	Cardiac pacemaker device replacement
119	Vein ligation & stripping
120	Other circulatory system O.R. procedures
121	Circulatory disorders w ami & major comp, discharged alive
122	Circulatory disorders w ami w/o major comp, discharged alive
123	Circulatory disorders w ami, expired
124	Circulatory disorders except ami, w card cath & complex diag
125	Circulatory disorders except ami, w card cath w/o complex diag

Value	Description
126	Acute & subacute endocarditis
127	Heart failure & shock
128	Deep vein thrombophlebitis
129	Cardiac arrest, unexplained
130	Peripheral vascular disorders w CC
131	Peripheral vascular disorders w/o CC
132	Atherosclerosis w CC
133	Atherosclerosis w/o CC
134	Hypertension
135	Cardiac congenital & valvular disorders age >17 w CC
136	Cardiac congenital & valvular disorders age >17 w/o CC
137	Cardiac congenital & valvular disorders age 0-17
138	Cardiac arrhythmia & conduction disorders w CC
139	Cardiac arrhythmia & conduction disorders w/o CC
140	Angina pectoris
141	Syncope & collapse w CC
142	Syncope & collapse w/o CC
143	Chest pain
144	Other circulatory system diagnoses w CC
145	Other circulatory system diagnoses w/o CC
146	Rectal resection w CC
147	Rectal resection w/o CC
148	Major small & large bowel procedures w CC
149	Major small & large bowel procedures w/o CC
150	Peritoneal adhesiolysis w CC
151	Peritoneal adhesiolysis w/o CC
152	Minor small & large bowel procedures w CC
153	Minor small & large bowel procedures w/o CC
154	Stomach, esophageal & duodenal procedures age >17 w CC
155	Stomach, esophageal & duodenal procedures age >17 w/o CC
156	Stomach, esophageal & duodenal procedures age 0-17
157	Anal & stomal procedures w CC
158	Anal & stomal procedures w/o CC
159	Hernia procedures except inguinal & femoral age >17 w CC
160	Hernia procedures except inguinal & femoral age >17 w/o CC
161	Inguinal & femoral hernia procedures age >17 w CC
162	Inguinal & femoral hernia procedures age >17 w/o CC
163	Hernia procedures age 0-17
164	Appendectomy w complicated principal diag w CC
165	Appendectomy w complicated principal diag w/o CC
166	Appendectomy w/o complicated principal diag w CC
167	Appendectomy w/o complicated principal diag w/o CC

Value	Description
168	Mouth procedures w CC
169	Mouth procedures w/o CC
170	Other digestive system O.R. procedures w CC
171	Other digestive system O.R. procedures w/o CC
172	Digestive malignancy w CC
173	Digestive malignancy w/o CC
174	G.I. hemorrhage w CC
175	G.I. hemorrhage w/o CC
176	Complicated peptic ulcer
177	Uncomplicated peptic ulcer w CC
178	Uncomplicated peptic ulcer w/o CC
179	Inflammatory bowel disease
180	G.I. obstruction w CC
181	G.I. obstruction w/o CC
182	Esophagitis, gastroent & misc digest disorders age >17 w CC
183	Esophagitis, gastroent & misc digest disorders age >17 w/o CC
184	Esophagitis, gastroent & misc digest disorders age 0-17
185	Dental & oral dis except extractions & restorations, age >17
186	Dental & oral dis except extractions & restorations, age 0-17
187	Dental extractions & restorations
188	Other digestive system diagnoses age >17 w CC
189	Other digestive system diagnoses age >17 w/o CC
190	Other digestive system diagnoses age 0-17
191	Pancreas, liver & shunt procedures w CC
192	Pancreas, liver & shunt procedures w/o CC
193	Biliary tract proc except only cholecyst w or w/o c.d.e. w CC
194	Biliary tract proc except only cholecyst w or w/o c.d.e. w/o CC
195	Cholecystectomy w c.d.e. w CC
196	Cholecystectomy w c.d.e. w/o CC
197	Cholecystectomy except by laparoscope w/o c.d.e. w CC
198	Cholecystectomy except by laparoscope w/o c.d.e. w/o CC
199	Hepatobiliary diagnostic procedure for malignancy
200	Hepatobiliary diagnostic procedure for non-malignancy
201	Other hepatobiliary or pancreas O.R. procedures
202	Cirrhosis & alcoholic hepatitis
203	Malignancy of hepatobiliary system or pancreas
204	Disorders of pancreas except malignancy
205	Disorders of liver except malig,cirr,alc hepa w CC
206	Disorders of liver except malig,cirr,alc hepa w/o CC
207	Disorders of the biliary tract w CC
208	Disorders of the biliary tract w/o CC
209	Major joint & limb reattachment procedures of lower extremity

Value	Description
210	Hip & femur procedures except major joint age >17 w CC
211	Hip & femur procedures except major joint age >17 w/o CC
212	Hip & femur procedures except major joint age 0-17
213	Amputation for musculoskeletal system & conn tissue disorders
216	Biopsies of musculoskeletal system & connective tissue
217	Wnd debrid & skn grft except hand,for muscskelet & conn tiss dis
218	Lower extrem & humer proc except hip,foot,femur age >17 w CC
219	Lower extrem & humer proc except hip,foot,femur age >17 w/o CC
220	Lower extrem & humer proc except hip,foot,femur age 0-17
223	Major shoulder/elbow proc, or other upper extremity proc w CC
224	Shoulder,elbow or forearm proc,exc major joint proc, w/o CC
225	Foot procedures
226	Soft tissue procedures w CC
227	Soft tissue procedures w/o CC
228	Major thumb or joint proc,or oth hand or wrist proc w CC
229	Hand or wrist proc, except major joint proc, w/o CC
230	Local excision & removal of int fix devices of hip & femur
231	Local excision & removal of int fix devices except hip & femur
232	Arthroscopy
233	Other musculoskelet sys & conn tiss O.R. proc w CC
234	Other musculoskelet sys & conn tiss O.R. proc w/o CC
235	Fractures of femur
236	Fractures of hip & pelvis
237	Sprains, strains, & dislocations of hip, pelvis & thigh
238	Osteomyelitis
239	Pathological fractures & musculoskeletal & conn tiss malignancy
240	Connective tissue disorders w CC
241	Connective tissue disorders w/o CC
242	Septic arthritis
243	Medical back problems
244	Bone diseases & specific arthropathies w CC
245	Bone diseases & specific arthropathies w/o CC
246	Non-specific arthropathies
247	Signs & symptoms of musculoskeletal system & conn tissue
248	Tendonitis, myositis & bursitis
249	Aftercare, musculoskeletal system & connective tissue
250	Fx, sprn, strn & disl of forearm, hand, foot age >17 w CC
251	Fx, sprn, strn & disl of forearm, hand, foot age >17 w/o CC
252	Fx, sprn, strn & disl of forearm, hand, foot age 0-17
253	Fx, sprn, strn & disl of uparm,lowleg ex foot age >17 w CC
254	Fx, sprn, strn & disl of uparm,lowleg ex foot age >17 w/o CC
255	Fx, sprn, strn & disl of uparm,lowleg ex foot age 0-17

Value	Description
256	Other musculoskeletal system & connective tissue diagnoses
257	Total mastectomy for malignancy w CC
258	Total mastectomy for malignancy w/o CC
259	Subtotal mastectomy for malignancy w CC
260	Subtotal mastectomy for malignancy w/o CC
261	Breast proc for non-malignancy except biopsy & local excision
262	Breast biopsy & local excision for non-malignancy
263	Skin graft &/or debrid for skn ulcer or cellulitis w CC
264	Skin graft &/or debrid for skn ulcer or cellulitis w/o CC
265	Skin graft &/or debrid except for skin ulcer or cellulitis w CC
266	Skin graft &/or debrid except for skin ulcer or cellulitis w/o CC
267	Perianal & pilonidal procedures
268	Skin, subcutaneous tissue & breast plastic procedures
269	Other skin, subcut tiss & breast proc w CC
270	Other skin, subcut tiss & breast proc w/o CC
271	Skin ulcers
272	Major skin disorders w CC
273	Major skin disorders w/o CC
274	Malignant breast disorders w CC
275	Malignant breast disorders w/o CC
276	Non-maligant breast disorders
277	Cellulitis age >17 w CC
278	Cellulitis age >17 w/o CC
279	Cellulitis age 0-17
280	Trauma to the skin, subcut tiss & breast age >17 w CC
281	Trauma to the skin, subcut tiss & breast age >17 w/o CC
282	Trauma to the skin, subcut tiss & breast age 0-17
283	Minor skin disorders w CC
284	Minor skin disorders w/o CC
285	Amputat of lower limb for endocrine,nutrit,& metabol disorders
286	Adrenal & pituitary procedures
287	Skin grafts & wound debrid for endoc, nutrit & metab disorders
288	O.R. procedures for obesity
289	Parathyroid procedures
290	Thyroid procedures
291	Thyroglossal procedures
292	Other endocrine, nutrit & metab O.R. proc w CC
293	Other endocrine, nutrit & metab O.R. proc w/o CC
294	Diabetes age >35
295	Diabetes age 0-35
296	Nutritional & misc metabolic disorders age >17 w CC
297	Nutritional & misc metabolic disorders age >17 w/o CC

Value	Description
298	Nutritional & misc metabolic disorders age 0-17
299	Inborn errors of metabolism
300	Endocrine disorders w CC
301	Endocrine disorders w/o CC
302	Kidney transplant
303	Kidney,ureter & major bladder procedures for neoplasm
304	Kidney,ureter & major bladder proc for non-neopl w CC
305	Kidney,ureter & major bladder proc for non-neopl w/o CC
306	Prostatectomy w CC
307	Prostatectomy w/o CC
308	Minor bladder procedures w CC
309	Minor bladder procedures w/o CC
310	Transurethral procedures w CC
311	Transurethral procedures w/o CC
312	Urethral procedures, age >17 w CC
313	Urethral procedures, age >17 w/o CC
314	Urethral procedures, age 0-17
315	Other kidney & urinary tract O.R. procedures
316	Renal failure
317	Admit for renal dialysis
318	Kidney & urinary tract neoplasms w CC
319	Kidney & urinary tract neoplasms w/o CC
320	Kidney & urinary tract infections age >17 w CC
321	Kidney & urinary tract infections age >17 w/o CC
322	Kidney & urinary tract infections age 0-17
323	Urinary stones w CC, &/or esw lithotripsy
324	Urinary stones w/o CC
325	Kidney & urinary tract signs & symptoms age >17 w CC
326	Kidney & urinary tract signs & symptoms age >17 w/o CC
327	Kidney & urinary tract signs & symptoms age 0-17
328	Urethral stricture age >17 w CC
329	Urethral stricture age >17 w/o CC
330	Urethral stricture age 0-17
331	Other kidney & urinary tract diagnoses age >17 w CC
332	Other kidney & urinary tract diagnoses age >17 w/o CC
333	Other kidney & urinary tract diagnoses age 0-17
334	Major male pelvic procedures w CC
335	Major male pelvic procedures w/o CC
336	Transurethral prostatectomy w CC
337	Transurethral prostatectomy w/o CC
338	Testes procedures, for malignancy
339	Testes procedures, non-malignancy age >17

Value	Description
340	Testes procedures, non-malignancy age 0-17
341	Penis procedures
342	Circumcision age >17
343	Circumcision age 0-17
344	Other male reproductive system O.R. procedures for malignancy
345	Other male reproductive system O.R. proc except for malignancy
346	Malignancy, male reproductive system, w CC
347	Malignancy, male reproductive system, w/o CC
348	Benign prostatic hypertrophy w CC
349	Benign prostatic hypertrophy w/o CC
350	Inflammation of the male reproductive system
351	Sterilization, male
352	Other male reproductive system diagnoses
353	Pelvic evisceration, radical hysterectomy & radical vulvectomy
354	Uterine,adnexa proc for non-ovarian/adnexal malig w CC
355	Uterine,adnexa proc for non-ovarian/adnexal malig w/o CC
356	Female reproductive system reconstructive procedures
357	Uterine & adnexa proc for ovarian or adnexal malignancy
358	Uterine & adnexa proc for non-malignancy w CC
359	Uterine & adnexa proc for non-malignancy w/o CC
360	Vagina, cervix & vulva procedures
361	Laparoscopy & incisional tubal interruption
362	Endoscopic tubal interruption
363	D&c, conization & radio-implant, for malignancy
364	D&c, conization except for malignancy
365	Other female reproductive system O.R. procedures
366	Malignancy, female reproductive system w CC
367	Malignancy, female reproductive system w/o CC
368	Infections, female reproductive system
369	Menstrual & other female reproductive system disorders
370	Cesarean section w CC
371	Cesarean section w/o CC
372	Vaginal delivery w complicating diagnoses
373	Vaginal delivery w/o complicating diagnoses
374	Vaginal delivery w sterilization &/or d&c
375	Vaginal delivery w O.R. proc except steril &/or d&c
376	Postpartum & post abortion diagnoses w/o O.R. procedure
377	Postpartum & post abortion diagnoses w O.R. procedure
378	Ectopic pregnancy
379	Threatened abortion
380	Abortion w/o d&c
381	Abortion w d&c, aspiration curettage or hysterotomy

Value	Description
382	False labor
383	Other antepartum diagnoses w medical complications
384	Other antepartum diagnoses w/o medical complications
385	Neonates, died or transferred to another acute care facility
386	Extreme immaturity or respiratory distress syndrome, neonate
387	Prematurity w major problems
388	Prematurity w/o major problems
389	Full term neonate w major problems
390	Neonate w other significant problems
391	Normal newborn
392	Splenectomy age >17
393	Splenectomy age 0-17
394	Other O.R. procedures of the blood and blood forming organs
395	Red blood cell disorders age >17
396	Red blood cell disorders age 0-17
397	Coagulation disorders
398	Reticuloendothelial & immunity disorders w CC
399	Reticuloendothelial & immunity disorders w/o CC
400	Lymphoma & leukemia w major O.R. procedure
401	Lymphoma & non-acute leukemia w other O.R. proc w CC
402	Lymphoma & non-acute leukemia w other O.R. proc w/o CC
403	Lymphoma & non-acute leukemia w CC
404	Lymphoma & non-acute leukemia w/o CC
405	Acute leukemia w/o major O.R. procedure age 0-17
406	Myeloprolif disord or poorly diff neopl w maj O.R.proc w CC
407	Myeloprolif disord or poorly diff neopl w maj O.R.proc w/o CC
408	Myeloprolif disord or poorly diff neopl w other O.R.proc
409	Radiotherapy
410	Chemotherapy w/o acute leukemia as secondary diagnosis
411	History of malignancy w/o endoscopy
412	History of malignancy w endoscopy
413	Other myeloprolif dis or poorly diff neopl diag w CC
414	Other myeloprolif dis or poorly diff neopl diag w/o CC
415	O.R. procedure for infectious & parasitic diseases
416	Septicemia age >17
417	Septicemia age 0-17
418	Postoperative & post-traumatic infections
419	Fever of unknown origin age >17 w CC
420	Fever of unknown origin age >17 w/o CC
421	Viral illness age >17
422	Viral illness & fever of unknown origin age 0-17
423	Other infectious & parasitic diseases diagnoses

Value	Description
424	O.R. procedure w principal diagnoses of mental illness
425	Acute adjustment reaction & psychosocial dysfunction
426	Depressive neuroses
427	Neuroses except depressive
428	Disorders of personality & impulse control
429	Organic disturbances & mental retardation
430	Psychoses
431	Childhood mental disorders
432	Other mental disorder diagnoses
433	Alcohol/drug abuse or dependence, left ama
439	Skin grafts for injuries
440	Wound debridements for injuries
441	Hand procedures for injuries
442	Other O.R. procedures for injuries w CC
443	Other O.R. procedures for injuries w/o CC
444	Traumatic injury age >17 w CC
445	Traumatic injury age >17 w/o CC
446	Traumatic injury age 0-17
447	Allergic reactions age >17
448	Allergic reactions age 0-17
449	Poisoning & toxic effects of drugs age >17 w CC
450	Poisoning & toxic effects of drugs age >17 w/o CC
451	Poisoning & toxic effects of drugs age 0-17
452	Complications of treatment w CC
453	Complications of treatment w/o CC
454	Other injury, poisoning & toxic effect diag w CC
455	Other injury, poisoning & toxic effect diag w/o CC
461	O.R. proc w diagnoses of other contact w health services
462	Rehabilitation
463	Signs & symptoms w CC
464	Signs & symptoms w/o CC
465	Aftercare w history of malignancy as secondary diagnosis
466	Aftercare w/o history of malignancy as secondary diagnosis
467	Other factors influencing health status
468	Extensive O.R. procedure unrelated to principal diagnosis
469	Principal diagnosis invalid as discharge diagnosis
470	Ungroupable
471	Bilateral or multiple major joint procs of lower extremity
473	Acute leukemia w/o major O.R. procedure age >17
475	Respiratory system diagnosis with ventilator support
476	Prostatic O.R. procedure unrelated to principal diagnosis
477	Non-extensive O.R. procedure unrelated to principal diagnosis

Value	Description
478	Other vascular procedures w CC
479	Other vascular procedures w/o CC
480	Liver transplant
481	Bone marrow transplant
482	Tracheostomy for face,mouth & neck diagnoses
483	Tracheostomy except for face,mouth & neck diagnoses
484	Craniotomy for multiple significant trauma
485	Limb reattachment, hip and femur proc for multiple significant trauma
486	Other O.R. procedures for multiple significant trauma
487	Other multiple significant trauma
488	Hiv w extensive O.R. procedure
489	Hiv w major related condition
490	Hiv w or w/o other related condition
491	Major joint & limb reattachment procedures of upper extremity
492	Chemotherapy w acute leukemia as secondary diagnosis
493	Laparoscopic cholecystectomy w/o c.d.e. w CC
494	Laparoscopic cholecystectomy w/o c.d.e. w/o CC
495	Lung transplant
496	Combined anterior/posterior spinal fusion
497	Spinal fusion except cervical w CC
498	Spinal fusion except cervical w/o CC
499	Back & neck procedures except spinal fusion w CC
500	Back & neck procedures except spinal fusion w/o CC
501	Knee procedures w pdx of infection w CC
502	Knee procedures w pdx of infection w/o CC
503	Knee procedures w/o pdx of infection
504	Extensive 3rd degree burns w skin graft
505	Extensive 3rd degree burns w/o skin graft
506	Full thickness burn w skin graft or inhal inj w CC or sig trauma
507	Full thickness burn w skin grft or inhal inj w/o CC or sig trauma
508	Full thickness burn w/o skin grft or inhal inj w CC or sig trauma
509	Full thickness burn w/o skin grft or inh inj w/o CC or sig trauma
510	Non-extensive burns w CC or significant trauma
511	Non-extensive burns w/o CC or significant trauma
512	Simultaneous pancreas/kidney transplant
513	Pancreas transplant
514	Cardiac defibrillator implant w cardiac cath
515	Cardiac defibrillator implant w/o cardiac cath
516	Percutaneous cardiovascular procedures w ami
517	Percutaneous cardiovasc proc w coronary artery stent w/o ami
518	Percutaneous cardiovasc proc w/o coronary artery stent or ami
519	Cervical spinal fusion w CC

Value	Description
520	Cervical spinal fusion w/o CC
521	Alcohol/drug abuse or dependence w CC
522	Alcohol/drug abuse or dependence w rehabilitation therapy w/o CC
523	Alcohol/drug abuse or dependence w/o rehabilitation therapy w/o CC

HOMSTATE can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	Alabama
2	Alaska
4	Arizona
5	Arkansas
6	California
8	Colorado
9	Connecticut
10	Delaware
11	Washington, D.C.
12	Florida
13	Georgia
15	Hawaii
16	Idaho
17	Illinois
18	Indiana
19	Iowa
20	Kansas
21	Kentucky
22	Louisiana
23	Maine
24	Maryland
25	Massachusetts
26	Michigan
27	Minnesota
28	Mississippi
29	Missouri
30	Montana
31	Nebraska
32	Nevada
33	New Hampshire
34	New Jersey
35	New Mexico
36	New York
37	North Carolina
38	North Dakota
39	Ohio
40	Oklahoma
41	Oregon
42	Pennsylvania
44	Rhode Island
45	South Carolina

Value	Description
46	South Dakota
47	Tennessee
48	Texas
49	Utah
50	Vermont
51	Virginia
53	Washington
54	West Virginia
55	Wisconsin
56	Wyoming
58	Alberta
59	British Columbia
60	U.S. Samoa
61	Manitoba
62	New Brunswick
63	Newfoundland
65	Nova Scotia
66	Guam
71	Midway Islands
72	Puerto Rico
73	Northwest Territories
74	U.S. Minor Outlying Islands
75	Ontario
76	U.S. Caribbean
77	Prince Edward Island
78	Virgin Islands
80	Quebec
87	AF, EUR, ME, CAN
88	AF Pacific
90	Foreign Country
91	Canada & Mexico
93	Europe
96	Philippines
99	Unknown

PSX can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	World War I (April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918); date can be extended to April 1, 1920, if veteran served in Russia
2	World War II (December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946)
3	Pre-Korean (Before June 27, 1950)
4	Korean Conflict (June 27, 1950, to January 31, 1955)
5	Post-Korean/Peacetime Service (February 1, 1955, to August 4,1964)
6	Vietnam Era (August 5, 1964, to May 7, 1975)
7	Post-Vietnam/Peacetime Service (On or after May 8, 1975)
8	Persian Gulf War (Active Duty)
9	Other or None
0	Spanish-American War
A	Active Duty—ARMY
B	Active Duty--NAVY/MARINE CORPS
C	Active Duty--AIR FORCE
D	Active Duty--COAST GUARD (Department of Transportation)
E	Retired members of uniformed services
F	Medically Remedial Enlistment Program
G	Merchant Seamen (United States Public Health Service)
H	Other United States Public Health Service (PHS) beneficiaries
I	Observation and examination
J	OWCP (Office of Workers Compensation Program)
K	Job Corps and Peace Corps
L	Railroad retirement
M	Beneficiaries of Foreign Governments
N	Humanitarian (non-veteran emergency)
O	CHAMPUS (Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services) Restore - VA Medical Center, Albuquerque only
P	Other contract reimbursable (non-veteran) programs of the VA (Public Law 93-82)
Q	Other Federal agency – dependent
R	Donors (non-veteran)
S	Special Studies (non-veteran)
T	Other non-veteran (not classified elsewhere)
U	Spouse, surviving spouse, child (CHAMPVA) (Civilian Health and Medical Program for the Department of Veterans Affairs)
V	CHAMPUS
W	Service in Czechoslovakian or Polish Armed Forces (Public Law 94-491)
X	Persian Gulf War (August 2, 1990, to ____)
Y	New Philippine Scouts and Commonwealth Army Veterans
Z	Merchant Marines

SGR1 can assume the following values:

Value	Description
1	Skull incision
2	Skull, other
3	Spinal
4	Cranial nerve
5	Nerve, sympathetic
6	Thyroid
7	Endocrine
8	Eyelid
9	Lachrymal
10	Conjunctiva
11	Cornea
12	Iris, etc.
13	Eye, lens
14	Retina, etc.
15	Extraocular muscles
16	Eyeball & orbital
18	Ear, external
19	Ear, middle
20	Ear, inner
21	Nose
22	Sinus, nasal
23	Teeth
24	Gums & teeth
25	Tongue
26	Salivary
27	Mouth & face, other
28	Tonsils & adenoids
29	Pharynx
30	Larynx, excision
31	Larynx, other
32	Lung, excision
33	Lung, other
34	Chest, no lung
35	Heart valve
36	Heart vessels
37	Heart, other
38	Vessels, excision
39	Vessels, other
40	Lymphatic
41	Marrow & spleen
42	Esophagus

Value	Description
43	Stomach, excision
44	Stomach, other
45	Intestine, excision
46	Intestine, other
47	Appendix
48	Rectum
49	Anus
50	Liver
51	Gallbladder
52	Pancreas
53	Hernia
54	Abdominal, other
55	Kidney
56	Ureter
58	Bladder
59	Urinary, other
60	Prostate
61	Scrotum
62	Testes
63	Spermatic, etc.
64	Penis
65	Ovary
66	Fallopian
67	Cervix
68	Uterus, excision
69	Uterus, other
70	Vagina
71	Perineum
72	Delivery
73	Delivery, other
74	Cesarean
75	Obstetric, other
76	Face
77	Bone, excision
78	Bone, other
79	Fracture, reduction
80	Joint, excision
81	Joint, plastic
82	Muscle, hand
83	Muscle, not hand
84	Muscle & bone, other
85	Breast
86	Skin

Value	Description
87	X-Ray, diagnostic
88	X-Ray, etc.
89	Examination
90	Microscopic – I
91	Microscopic – II
92	Nuclear
93	Physical therapy, etc.
94	Psych procedure
95	Ophthalmologic
96	Intubation & irrigation
97	Therapeutic device
98	Foreign body, no operation (NOOP)
99	Non-operative, other

STA3N can assume the following values:

Value	Description
402	Togus
405	White River Junction
436	Fort Harrison, Montana Health Care System (HCS)
437	Fargo
438	Sioux Falls
442	Cheyenne
452	VAMC Wichita, KS
459	Honolulu
460	Wilmington
501	New Mexico Health Care System (HCS)
502	Alexandria
503	James E. Van Zandt VAMC (Altoona)
504	Amarillo Health Care System (HCS)
506	Ann Arbor Health Care System (HCS)
508	Decatur, Atlanta
509	Augusta
512	Baltimore
515	Battle Creek
516	Bay Pines
517	Beckley
518	Bedford
519	West Texas Health Care System (HCS)
520	Gulf Coast Health Care System (HCS)
521	Birmingham
523	VA Boston Health Care System (HCS) – Boston Division
526	Bronx
528	Upstate New York Health Care System (HCS)
529	Butler
531	Boise
534	Charleston
537	Chicago Health Care System (HCS)
538	Chillicothe
539	Cincinnati
540	Clarksburg
541	Cleveland – Wade Park
542	Coatesville
544	Columbia SC
546	Miami
548	West Palm Beach
549	Dallas VAMC

Value	Description
550	Illiana Health Care System (HCS) (Danville)
552	Dayton
553	Detroit (John D. Dingell)
554	Denver, Eastern Colorado Health Care System (HCS)
556	North Chicago IL
557	Dublin
558	Durham
561	East Orange, New Jersey Health Care System (HCS)
562	Erie
564	Fayetteville AR
565	Fayetteville NC
568	Fort Meade
570	Fresno, Central California Health Care System (HCS)
573	North Florida / South Georgia Health Care System (HCS) – Gainesville
575	Grand Junction
578	Hines
580	Houston
581	Huntington
583	Indianapolis
585	Iron Mountain MI
586	Jackson, G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery VAMC
589	VAMC Heartland, Kansas City
590	Hampton
593	Las Vegas, Southern Nevada Health Care System (HCS)
595	Lebanon
596	Lexington – Leestown
598	Little Rock, Central AR Veterans Health Care System (HCS)
600	Long Beach Health Care System (HCS)
603	Louisville
605	Loma Linda VAMC
607	Madison WI
608	Manchester
610	N. Indiana Health Care System (HCS) – Marion
612	NCHC Martinez
613	Martinsburg
614	Memphis
618	Minneapolis
619	Montgomery
620	Montrose, Hudson Valley Health Care System (HCS)
621	Mountain Home
623	Muskogee

Value	Description
626	Middle Tennessee Health Care System (HCS)
629	New Orleans
630	New York Harbor Health Care System (HCS) – NY Division
631	Northampton
632	Northport
635	Oklahoma City
636	Omaha Division – Central Plains Health Network
637	Asheville – Oteen
640	Palo Alto – Palo Alto
642	Philadelphia
644	Phoenix
646	Pittsburgh Health Care System (HCS) – University Dr
648	Portland
649	Northern Arizona Health Care System (HCS)
650	Providence
652	Richmond
653	Roseburg Health Care System (HCS)
654	Sierra Nevada Health Care System (HCS)
655	Saginaw
656	St Cloud
657	St Louis – John Cochran
658	Salem
659	W.G. (Bill) Hefner Salisbury VAMC
660	Salt Lake City Health Care System (HCS)
662	San Francisco
663	Seattle, Puget Sound Health Care System (HCS)
664	San Diego Health Care System (HCS)
666	Sheridan
667	Shreveport, Overton Brooks VAMC
668	Spokane
671	San Antonio VAMC
672	San Juan
673	Tampa
674	Temple VAMC
676	Tomah
678	S. Arizona Health Care System (HCS)
679	Tuscaloosa
687	Walla Walla
688	Washington
689	West Haven
691	Greater Los Angeles Health Care System (HCS)
693	Wilkes Barre

Value	Description
695	Milwaukee WI

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Appendix D: Austin Automation Center Information

Requesting Access To The Datasets

To gain access to the Medical SAS Datasets an approved ACRS (Automated Customer Registration System) TIME SHARING REQUEST FORM (Form 9957) must be submitted specifying the appropriate Functional Task Code(s) for the dataset(s) requested to the Austin Automation Center (AAC). This is typically done through the Information Resources Management (IRM) department at your site. The AAC can provide you with the IRM contact person at your site. A copy of this form can be obtained through the VIReC web site at http://www.virec.research.va.gov/TOOLKIT/FORM9957.pdf or through the VA at http://www.va.gov/forms/dot/VAF9957.dot.

Batch Job Service Level Categories

When submitting programs (jobs) in the IBM OS/390 mainframe environment at the Austin Automation Center (AAC), an appropriate service level code is required to allocate the system resources required to complete the job. The AAC currently defines four categories of batch job service and strives to provide corresponding job turnaround, from submission to completion, as shown. An "S322" error occurs when a job exceeds the Central Processing Unit (CPU) time for the service level coded. The number of tape drives and CPU time expected can be determined from step statistics messages. The table below describes the four service level categories and their associated system resource capacity levels. Specific instruction on how to code the batch service level in a job is described in the Job Control Language (JCL) example below.

Service Level Code	CPU Seconds	Tape Drives	Turnaround Time Goal
6	0-10	0	15 minutes
7	10-50	0	30 minutes
8	0-600	1-2	2 hours
9	over 600	over 2	6 hours

JCL Example

```
(1)    //yourIDx  JOB XXXUNKAn,yourID,MSGCLASS=I,NOTIFY=&SYSUID
(2)    //step1    EXEC SAS,WORK='100,100'
(3)    //libref   DD DSN=SAS-dataset-name,DISP=SHR
(3)    //LIBRARY  DD DSN=MDPPRD.MDP.FMTLIB6,DISP=SHR
(3)    //SYSIN    DD *
```

(1) Job card:

- ***yourIDx*** – Time Sharing Option (TSO) account user ID plus a one-character job identifier (***x*** *(*A–Z*)*) (maximum 8 characters)
- **XXXUNKA*n*** – Batch job service level category (***n***, (6–9) (described in section above))
- ***MSGCLASS=x*** – supplies the SYSOUT class for the job's system messages ("I"=24 hour retention period, "R"=5 day retention period)
- ***NOTIFY=&SYSUID*** – notifies user ID when job has completed

(2) Execution statement:

- ***step1*** – job step name (maximum 8 characters)
- ***EXEC SAS*** – executes SAS software
- ***WORK='p,s'*** – primary and secondary work space to be allocated during step execution

(3) Data Definition (DD) statements

- ***Libref*** – library reference defining a file to be read (maximum 8 characters)
- ***DSN= SAS-dataset-name*** – defines a SAS dataset
- ***DISP=SHR*** – allocates dataset as "shared" or read-only
- ***LIBRARY DD DSN=MDPPRD.MDP.FMTLIB6*** – allocates dataset containing library of permanent SAS formats attached to the variables in the SAS datasets
- ***SYSIN DD **** – indicates that SAS program statements follow

Other Sources of Information

Guide For First Time Users of VA Austin Automation Center (AAC).
Available at: http://www.virec.research.va.gov/INSIGHTS/VOL002NO001.PDF.
Suggested Citation: Cowper DC. Guide for First Time Users of VA Austin Automation Center (AAC). Hines, IL: VA Information Resource Center; 2001. VIReC Insights, Vol. 2, No. 1. (PDF)

The Austin Operations Information intranet site provides tutorials on dataset management, Time Sharing Option/Interactive System Productivity Facility (TSO/ISPF), Job Control Language (JCL), Job Entry System ((E)JES) and File Transfer Protocol (FTP) utilities. Available at: [redacted].

AAC Contact Information

AAC Help Desk: l–512–326–6780
Internet website: http://www.aac.va.gov/
Intranet website: [redacted]

Appendix E: Selected Bibliography

This bibliography of articles relative to inpatient data within the Austin Automation Center (AAC) database was constructed using the following strategy.

A PubMed (http://www.ncbi.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi) search for text words was conducted on 11/22/02, with 468 references resulting from using the parameters of:

> (veteran OR veterans) AND (data OR database OR databases) AND ((inpatient OR inpatients OR PTF) OR (outpatient OR outpatients or OPC))

Results were imported into Reference Manager. Each abstract was read and a qualitative judgment was made concerning relevance to the Medical SAS Datasets using the following criteria:

> Does the abstract refer to "inpatient", "outpatient", or "administrative" data?
> Does the abstract refer to "Austin Automation Center" or "AAC" data?

If the answer to both questions was yes, the article was classified as relevant to the Medical SAS Datasets, netting a total of 142 articles.

Relevant articles were retrieved and the full text was read to confirm relevance to the Inpatient Medical SAS Datasets. Of this procedure, 86 articles were found to be relevant.

These 77 relevant articles are sorted by year and alphabetized within each year. A PubMed link to the abstract is provided for each citation.

A few articles that we know are relevant but did not turn up in the PubMed search are also listed.

Year 2002

Best WR, Khuri SF, Phelan M, Hur K, Henderson WG, Demakis JG et al. Identifying patient preoperative risk factors and postoperative adverse events in administrative databases: results from the Department of Veterans Affairs National Surgical Quality Improvement Program. *J Am Coll Surg* 2002; 194(3):257-266. (Abstract)

Buchner AM, Sonnenberg A. Epidemiology of Clostridium difficile infection in a large population of hospitalized US military veterans. *Dig Dis Sci* 2002; 47(1):201-207. (Abstract)

Buchner AM, Sonnenberg A. Factors influencing the prevalence of gallstones in liver disease: the beneficial and harmful influences of alcohol. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2002; 97(4):905-909. (Abstract)

Collins TC, Johnson M, Henderson W, Khuri SF, Daley J. Lower Extremity Nontraumatic Amputation Among Veterans With Peripheral Arterial Disease: Is Race an Independent Factor? *Med Care* 2002; 40(1 Suppl):106-116. (Abstract)

Cowper D, Kubal J, Maynard C, Hynes D. A primer and comparative review of major U.S. Mortality databases. *Ann Epidemiol* 2002; 12(7):462. (Abstract)

Cucino C, Buchner AM, Sonnenberg A. Continued rightward shift of colorectal cancer. *Dis Colon Rectum* 2002; 45(8):1035-1040. (Abstract)

Desai MM, Rosenheck RA, Druss BG, Perlin JB. Mental disorders and quality of diabetes care in the veterans health administration. *Am J Psychiatry* 2002; 159(9):1584-1590. (Abstract)

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Murphy PA, Cowper DC, Seppala G, Stroupe KT, Hynes DM. Veterans Health Administration inpatient and outpatient care data: an overview. *Eff Clin Pract* 2002; 5(3 Suppl):E4. (Abstract)

Reker DM, Rosen AK, Hoenig H, Berlowitz DR, Laughlin J, Anderson L et al. The hazards of stroke case selection using administrative data. *Med Care* 2002; 40(2):96-104. (Abstract)

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Kazmers A, Perkins AJ, Jacobs LA. Aneurysm rupture is independently associated with increased late mortality in those surviving abdominal aortic aneurysm repair. *J Surg Res* 2001; 95(1):50-53. (Abstract)

Rosen AK, Loveland S, Anderson JJ, Rothendler JA, Hankin CS, Rakovski CC et al. Evaluating diagnosis-based case-mix measures: how well do they apply to the VA population? *Med Care* 2001; 39(7):692-704. (Abstract)

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Sernyak MJ, Rosenheck R, Desai R, Stolar M, Ripper G. Impact of clozapine prescription on inpatient resource utilization. *J Nerv Ment Dis* 2001; 189(11):766-773. (Abstract)

Weaver F, Hynes D, Goldberg JM, Khuri S, Daley J, Henderson W. Hysterectomy in Veterans Affairs Medical Centers. Obstet Gynecol 2001; 97(6):880-884. (Abstract)

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El Serag HB, Sonnenberg A. Outcome of erosive reflux esophagitis after Nissen fundoplication. *Am J Gastroenterol* 1999; 94(7):1771-1776. (Abstract)

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