

## VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

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**DATA ISSUES BRIEF**

**JANUARY 2008**

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### **VA DATA AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS:**

#### **1. VA Secure Host Integration Overview**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is implementing a policy for securing access to all VA host systems. The systems of interest are OpenVMS, UNIX, LINUX, Bull System and IBM Mainframes. The goal is to eventually have telnet and file transfer secured from user workstation to these host systems. The other goal is to standardize on software across the enterprise to simplify operations and training for administrators and users. To meet these needs, the VA ordered an enterprise license of software to meet the objectives of the VA. The goal is to have a large portion of this software distributed by March 31st of 2008. More information is available on the VA Intranet (the address is given in the Intranet version of this *Data Issues Brief*)

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## 2. Means Test Thresholds for Calendar Year 2008

VHA Directive 2007-042, dated December 18, 2007, provides the Means Test Thresholds, Medicare Deductible Rate, and Child Income Exclusion for calendar year 2008. In addition, this Directive provides an Internet link to the United States Housing and Urban Development's income limits for fiscal year 2007 (FY07) for use by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) in calendar year 2008. For full details, see <http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication/ID=1625>.

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## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

### 3. January Clinical Informatics Cyber Seminar

Claire Snyder, PhD and Albert Wu MD, MPH are presenting a cyber seminar on Tuesday, January 15 entitled "Patient Viewpoint: A Website for Patient-Reported Outcomes Assessment." Dr. Snyder is Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Dr. Wu is Professor of Health Policy and Management at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Participants are welcome to join the session on a "first come, first serve" basis. The Cyber Seminars on Clinical Informatics, sponsored by VIREC, take place at 12 pm ET on the third Tuesday of each month. Information can be found at: [http://www.hsrdr.research.va.gov/for\\_researchers/cyber\\_seminars/catalog.cfm](http://www.hsrdr.research.va.gov/for_researchers/cyber_seminars/catalog.cfm). For further questions contact Laurel Nevinslong at [laurel.nevinslong@va.gov](mailto:laurel.nevinslong@va.gov).

Please note: There will be no February Clinical Informatics Cyber Seminar due to the VA's Health Services Research & Development (HSR&D) National Meeting.

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## CONFERENCES

### 4. VIREC Presentations at VA HSR&D 2008 National Meeting

The following presentations by VIREC staff will be made at the VA's Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D) 2008 National Meeting (February 13-15) in Baltimore MD.

- Workshop: *National Clinical Data for VA Research: The VA Corporate Data Warehouse*
  - o Bates J; Copeland L, Lancaster B, Noel P, Perrin R
  - o 11:15 – 12:30 am, Thursday, February 14
- Breakfast Session: *VA Information Resource Center (VIREC)*:
  - o 7:00 – 8:00 am, Friday, February 15

An agenda for the 2008 National Meeting is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.hsrdr.research.va.gov/meetings/2008/>.

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### 5. AcademyHealth 2008 National Health Policy Conference

The 2008 AcademyHealth National Health Policy Conference will take place on February 4-5, 2008 at the Capital Hilton in Washington, DC. This conference offers researchers an opportunity to hear directly from the policymakers about 2008 policy priorities. The conference includes a plenary session titled: "Serving Those who Serve: Health Care for Military Personnel and Veterans". For more information and registration go to <http://academyhealth.org/nhpc/>.

## **CALL FOR PAPERS AND ABSTRACTS:**

### **6. HSR&D Support for “Military and Veteran Health” Abstracts Accepted at 2008 AcademyHealth National Research Meeting**

VA’s HSR&D Service will pay travel and registration for all HSR&D investigators who have an abstract accepted under the new theme of “Military and Veteran Health” at the 2008 AcademyHealth National Research Meeting. The submission deadline for paper, poster, and panel abstracts is January 15, 2008. More information about the meeting can be found on the AcademyHealth Web site <http://www.academyhealth.org/arm/abstracts/>.

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- **Data Issues Brief:** is a monthly newsletter published by the [VA Information Resource Center \(VIREC\)](#) for the purpose of informing and updating VA researchers on current and pending happenings and changes regarding health data, databases, and medical informatics.
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