

## VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

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### DATA ISSUES BRIEF

FEBRUARY 2008

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### CONFERENCES:

#### 1. 2008 VA HSR&D National Meeting

The agenda for the VA HSR&D 2008 National Meeting February 13-15 in Baltimore MD is available on the Internet at: <http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/meetings/2008/>. We encourage you to stop by the VIREC Exhibit Booth during the conference and meet VIREC staff. We also encourage you to attend the following VIREC-sponsored presentations.

- Thursday, February 14, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.
  - National Clinical Data for VA Research: The VA Corporate Data Warehouse
  - *Presenters:* Bates J; Copeland L, Lancaster B, Noel P, Perrin R
- Friday, February 15, 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
  - Breakfast Session: VA Information Resource Center (VIREC)
  - *Description:* Learn news about VA data including the VSSC OIF/OEF Data mart. Find out about products and services available from VIREC and meet other researchers.

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

### **2. SAS File Access at Austin CFD Unavailable 2/16-2/17**

SAS dataset access will not be available at the Corporate Franchise Data Center (CFD) in Austin from 4 pm Saturday, February 16, 2008 until 2 pm Sunday, February 17, 2008. A power outage has been scheduled to complete scheduled maintenance on the facility's emergency electrical systems. No processing, including all transactions, jobs, and backups, will take place during this time period. This includes access to SAS files.

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### **3. Two New OIF/OEF Fields Added to FY08 DSS Clinical NDEs**

The Decision Support Service (DSS) National Data Extracts (NDEs) will include 2 new variables in the FY08 NDE datasets: (1) OEF/OIF and (2) OEF/OIF Return Date. The "OEF/OIF" variable will identify veterans as serving in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), both OEF and OIF, or either OEF or OIF though unknown which. OEF deployment is on or after 9/11/01 and OIF deployment is on or after 3/19/03. Variable values include OEF, OIF, UNK and OEFOIF. UNK indicates that a veteran served in one operation or the other but that which operation is unknown. OEFOIF indicates that a veteran served in both operations. Multiple tours in the same theatre are represented by a single value. The "OEF/OIF Return Date" records the date the veteran last left the OEF/OIF area. Only the most recent date is reported. All 4 clinical national data extracts (Clinical NDEs) include the new fields: RAD (radiology), PHA (pharmacy), LAB (laboratory tests), and LAR (laboratory test results).

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### **4. VeHU 2008 Now Open for Poster Abstract Submissions**

Abstracts for posters for the 2008 VA Electronic Health University (VeHU) Meeting are now being accepted on the VeHU VA Intranet Web site (the address is given in the Intranet version of this *Data Issues Brief*). VeHU has not yet posted the submission deadline. An attendance exemption will be granted to one submitter per accepted poster abstract. There is no limit to the number of entries a person may submit. Categories for poster submissions include: emerging ideas, innovations in education, patient safety, performance measures, process improvements, and VeHU implementation success stories. Funded trips will be awarded to accepted submissions for: best in category (for categories with at least 10 submissions), best in track (provider, nursing, CIS, HIM, and pharmacy), best in track with at least 10 submissions (VistA imaging, MyHealtheVet, Health Data Repository/Standards and Terminology), one Sharon Coleman Nursing Informatics award, and two random submissions.

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

### **5. AcademyHealth Launches New HSR Methods Website**

AcademyHealth launched the [www.HSRmethods.org](http://www.HSRmethods.org) Web site on January 10, 2008. This new online site provides researchers collaborating across disciplines with an easy-to-use tool for understanding health services research (HSR) methods. The Web site includes current information on key research methods and a number of resources used in HSR. The Web site, which will grow over time under the direction of the Methods Council (see <http://www.hsrmethods.org/About/AcademyHealth.aspx>) is designed to spur dialogue about analytic methods among researchers.

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## **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **6. March Clinical Informatics Cyber Seminar**

Annette L. Valenta, DrPH will present a cyber seminar on Tuesday, March 18 entitled “Information Technology and Patient Safety.” Dr. Valenta is Professor and Department Head, Biomedical and Health Information Sciences, College of Applied Health Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago. 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.hsrd.research.va.gov/for\\_researchers/cyber\\_seminars/catalog.cfm](http://www.hsrd.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).

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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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