



VA Information Resource Center
Data Issues Brief
August 2002

1. OI HIPAA Workgroups

The Office of Information HIPAA Workgroups' activities are currently online and can be reviewed at [REDACTED]

The workgroup site provides information regarding meetings, products, educational information, and other HIPAA activities of the OI HIPAA workgroup.

2. Office of Information Releases HDR / CPRS-R Monthly Newsletter

The Health Data Repository / Computerized Patient Record System Re-engineering efforts are now being updated and distributed on a monthly basis via newsletter at <http://vista.med.va.gov/hdr/Newsletter/Issue%201%20---%20The%20Concept.htm>

The monthly newsletter, which covers the who, why and how's of the HDR / CPRS re-engineering effort, is available via listserv. Subscription to the Listserv Newsletter can be made at: [REDACTED]

The newsletter is designed to keep CPRS users and customers up to date with current and forthcoming changes.

3. VHA Data on Hospice and Palliative Care

VHA Directive 2002-038, dated July 5, 2002, provides coding and workload capture guidelines for VHA provision of hospice and palliative care services. The directive addresses care provided by VHA in both VA and non-VA facilities. The directive is available at <http://www.va.gov/publ/direc/health/direct/12002038.pdf>.

4. New Databases Available for Purchase from AHRQ

AHRQ has released for purchase Year 2000 State Inpatient Databases (SID), State Ambulatory Surgery Databases (SADS), and Nationwide Inpatient Sample (NIS). All databases are in uniform format for ease of use, and include all patients seen for a variety of states, including uninsured patients. Data includes charge information, regardless of payer. The 2000 SID comprise discharge abstract data from all community hospitals in those 16 States. The 2000 SASD capture information on surgeries performed at hospital-affiliated ambulatory surgery sites in the five States. The 2000 NIS includes discharge information on roughly 7 million hospital stays from about 1,000 community hospitals in 28 States. The NIS approximates a 20 percent sample of community hospitals. For information on purchasing these data and earlier year data, go to <http://www.ahrq.gov/data/hcup/hcupflyr.htm>.

Data Issues Briefs are developed by the staff of 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. *Data Issues Briefs* are produced on a monthly basis and are distributed through e-mail subscriptions. Previous releases are posted and available on the VIREC Web site at <http://www.virec.research.va.gov>. If you wish to receive future issues directly or have any suggestions or comment about the *Data Issues Briefs*, please send an e-mail message to the VIREC at virec@research.hines.va.gov or call (708) 202-2413.