VIReC
Veterans Affairs Information Resource Center
Researchers' Guide to VA Data

Data Issues Brief: *December 2002*

1. VHA Issues Notice on Sharing Rehabilitation Data

The VHA has issued a notice (#2000-04, November 21, 2002) entitled "Protocol For Sharing VA Rehabilitation Outcomes Data With VA And Non-VA Research Investigators." The Notice describes the protocol by which the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and non-VA researchers may access data stored in the Functional Status and Outcomes Database (FSOD) (for Rehabilitation) at the Austin Automation Center (AAC). Questions about the Notice should be directed to Clifford R. Marshall at (901) 523-8990, Ext. 1-2508.

2. Research Representatives Helping Draft HIPAA-Required Notice

Health services researchers are represented by staff from VACO and VIReC on the VHA task force developing a Notice of Privacy Practices that will give patients details about the ways in which the organization uses or discloses information about its patients. The notice is required by the HIPAA Privacy Rule and will be mailed to all VHA beneficiaries by the compliance deadline of April 14, 2003. Questions can be directed to the VIReC Help Desk. virec@research.hines.va.gov

3. New HIPAA Guidance Released

A 14-page research section is included in the new 120-page set of guidance materials for the HIPAA Privacy Rule recently released by the Office for Civil Rights. The materials can be viewed at http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/privacy.html. For questions about the guidance materials or the Privacy Rule, contact Patricia Watts, VIReC HIPAA Program Manager, at 708-202-5394 or watts@research.hines.med.va.gov.

4. Issue 2 of HDR Newsletter

A new issue of the Health Data Repository (HDR) newsletter (Autumn 2002) includes announcement of HDR presentations to be made at Camp CPRS 2003, as well as reports on the status of HDR development. For details see the VA Intranet site: ███████████████████████████████.

5. New Clinical Practice Guidelines Database

A public database of over 1,000 evidence-based clinical practice guidelines and related materials has been developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The materials were submitted by more than 170 health care organizations, associations, medical societies and federal agencies. For additional information see the AHRQ web site: http://www.ahrq.org