VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

DATA ISSUES BRIEF   **MARCH 2008**
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VA DATA AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS:

1. Responsibilities of the Office of Research Oversight

VHA Directive 1058, "Responsibilities of the Office of Research Oversight," was issued on February 1, 2008. This directive revises an earlier directive, adding "research information security" and "governmentwide debarment and suspension based on research impropriety" to the Office of Research Oversight's (ORO's) areas of responsibility. It is VHA policy that ORO serve as the primary VHA office in advising the Under Secretary for Health on matters of compliance and assurance related to, for example, human subject protections, research information security, research improprieties, etc. ORO also oversees procedures related to violations in these areas. This directive can be found on the Internet at http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1647.

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2. VHA Directive Providing Guidelines for Use of Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) Minimum Data Set (MDS)

VHA Directive 2008-007, "Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) Minimum Data Set (MDS)," was issued February 4, 2008. This directive provides guidelines for scheduling and completion of the RAI MDS in VA nursing home care units and spinal cord injury and disorders programs that are surveyed under the Joint Commission on Long-Term Care standards. The process described in the directive is consistent with guidelines established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). More information about this directive can be found on the Internet at http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1648.

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3. New Name for Corporate Franchise Data Center in Austin

The Corporate Franchise Data Center in Austin (CFD), formerly called the Austin Automation Center (AAC), has changed its name as of 2/1/08. The new name is Austin Information Technology Center (AITC).

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4. VeHU 2008 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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EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

5. 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. For further questions contact Laurel Nevinslong at laurel.nevinslong@va.gov.

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