VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

DATA ISSUES BRIEF   **APRIL 2008**

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VA DATA AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS:

1. Revised VA Form 9957

The Austin Information Technology Center (AITC) has posted a revised VA Form 9957, which is required for users requesting access to data located at the AITC and for current users making changes to their access information. The Information Systems Security Office at AITC was formerly known as "Corporate Franchise Data Center" (CDC) and "Austin Automation Center" (AAC). The old 9957 form will not be accepted after May 8, 2008. The revised form is accessible on the VA intranet website.

The following are some helpful revisions to note:
- You must be current on your signed rules of behavior; cyber security and privacy training.
- You must complete Section 3 for mainframe requests.
- There is no longer a SSN block due to privacy concerns.
- All forms going to Austin must be electronic and sent by the approving official or the ISO and/or ACRS POC. To obtain a digital signature, send the form to AITC Security Requests using PKI.

2. Updated DSS NDE Technical Guide for FY08

The Fiscal Year 2008 Decision Support System (DSS) National Data Extract (NDE) Technical Guide is now on the VA DSS intranet website. This publication updates the FY06 Guide. In addition to providing an overview of DSS data and structure, the FY08 Guide contains in-depth technical information on each NDE including variable descriptions and VistA source files. Researchers may find the FY08 Guide a valuable complementary reference to the VIReC and HERC DSS NDE guides.

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3. VHA Office of Information Works toward Nationalizing Local Informatics Innovations

Class III software are software that have not been approved by OI&T for use across the VA. Class III software are typically software either developed locally or are off-the-shelf vendor products. VHA OI is working toward a universal system for developing these products. Current actions involve assessing legacy Class III software for national release. Researchers must submit a New Service Request to have their Class III software reviewed. Long-term, VHA OI plans to launch the Innovative Sandbox, a virtual workspace for VA developers across the nation to collaborate in the development of solutions to common problems through innovative products. For more information, see: http://www1.va.gov/vha_oi/docs/OI_Newsletter_NewYouCanUse_2ndIssue.pdf.

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4. Bidirectional Health Information Exchange Tiger Team

The Bidirectional Health Information Exchange (BHIE) is an information technology data exchange between the VA and the Department of Defense (DoD). Craig Luigart, Office of Information (OI) Chief Officer, has formed a Tiger Team to address BHIE electronic data transfer issues. The team is pooling VHA medical centers to analyze data transfer issues and isolate problems. To enhance BHIE usability, the Tiger Team will disseminate solutions to users and incorporate these resolutions into future systems training. See: http://www1.va.gov/vha_oi/docs/OI_Newsletter_NewYouCanUse_2ndIssue.pdf.

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EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

5. April Clinical Informatics Cyber Seminar

The April 17 Cyber Seminar presentation, "My HealtheVet Personal Health Record" by Kim M. Nazi, FACHE, is available on the VIReC website. Ms. Nazi is Management Analyst, Veterans and Consumers Health Informatics Office, Veterans Health Administration. Ms Nazi carries out the design, development, and implementation of the Performance Evaluation Program for My HealtheVet Personal Health Record. She holds a Masters degree in Strategic Communication from Seton Hall University, New Jersey and currently is a doctoral student in the Joint Sociology/Communication program at the University of Albany. The Cyber Seminars on Clinical Informatics, sponsored by VIReC, take place at 12 pm ET on the third Tuesday of each month. For access to this presentation, see: http://www.virec.research.va.gov/EducationResources/Seminars/Clinical-Informatics.htm or contact Joanne Stevens (joanne.stevens@va.gov), VIReC's Clinical Informatics cyber seminar coordinator, for further questions.

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6. VeHU 2008 Deadline for Poster Abstract Submissions May 9

The deadline to submit poster abstracts for the 2008 VA Electronic Health University (VeHU) Meeting is May 9, 2008. To be considered for a funded trip award (e.g., best in category, best in track, etc.), abstracts must be received by April 25. The poster selected at VeHU 2008 as "Best in Show" wins a VeHU 2009 funded travel award.

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7. AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting June 8-10

The 25th AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting is in Washington DC from June 8-10, 2008. The meeting agenda and registration are available online at http://www.academyhealth.org/arm/.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

8. New Associate Director for QUERI Named

David Atkins, MD, MPH, is the new Associate Director of the VA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI). Dr. Atkins is the former Chief Medical Officer at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). He is Board certified in Internal Medicine and has a Masters of Public Health in Epidemiology. Dr. Atkins brings outstanding expertise in the field of implementation science to the QUERI program. A brief question and answer interview with Dr. Atkins is accessible in the *HSR&D Research Briefs* online at http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/publications/research_briefs/mar08/default.cfm.

- **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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