VIReC RESEARCHERS' GUIDE TO VA DATA

VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

DATA ISSUES BRIEF SEPTEMBER 2008

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VA DATA AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS:

1. VIReC Data Alert Regarding Duplicate Prosthetics Encounters

Duplicate prosthetics encounters (Stop Code = 423) were erroneously entered into the Medical SAS outpatient datasets from April 14 – June 13, 2008, but only from the Tuscaloosa VA (Station 679). The specific datasets affected are:

- MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.SE08(0)
- MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.SF08(0)
- MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.IE08(0)

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Office of Information (OI) National Patient Care Data (NPCD) plans to correct the outpatient datasets as follows: 9/8/08 – Inpatient Encounter (IE); 9/15/08 – Outpatient Visit (SF) and Outpatient Event (SE). The final fiscal year 2008 (FY08) datasets will not have this problem. Researchers need only be concerned if they have used the FY08 interim outpatient datasets (IE, SF, SE) since April 25, 2008.

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2. Hospice and Palliative Care Workload Capture

VHA Directive 2008-041, dated August 4, 2008, defines the VHA provision of Hospice and Palliative Care (HPC) and the VHA policy for coding this care. Coding quality is important for funding allocation and strategic planning, and for research purposes. Attachment A of the directive contains detailed coding rules. Researchers can access the directive at http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1740

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3. Assignment of Station Number Suffix Identifiers for CBOCs
VHA Directive 2008-048, dated August 22, 2008, provides policy for the assignment of station number suffix identifiers for Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs). CBOCs are VA operated and funded facilities that are distinct from, but associated with a parent medical facility. CBOCs include all types of VA outpatient clinics with the exception of hospital-based, independent (fiscally self-contained), and mobile clinics. This new directive aims to improve the tracking and reporting of CBOC workload, especially given the increased emphasis on establishing new CBOCs. New CBOCs must be approved by the Under Secretary for Health, congressionally endorsed, and will now be assigned a suffix identifier at the time of approval. More information can be found at http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1745

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EDUCATION:

4. September Clinical Informatics Cyber Seminar
Carol Achtmeyer, RN, NP is presenting a cyber seminar on Tuesday, September 16, entitled "Identifying Patients at High Risk of Suicide/Self Harm: A Demonstration of Clinical Reminder Patient Lists and Their Potential Use in Research/Quality Improvement." Ms. Achtmeyer is a primary care nurse practitioner at VA Puget Sound as well as Informatics Research Coordinator at the VA's Puget Sound Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D) Center of Excellence (COE). She is a member of both the VA's Center of Excellence in Substance Abuse Treatment and Education (CESATE) and the Substance Use Disorder Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (SUD QUERI). Participants are welcome to join the cyber seminar on a "first come, first serve" basis. The VIReC Cyber Seminars on Clinical Informatics take place at 12 pm ET on the third Tuesday of each month. Information can be found on the VA Intranet (address given in the VA Intranet version of this *Data Issues Brief*). For further questions, contact Joanne Stevens (joanne.stevens@va.gov), VIReC's Clinical Informatics Cyber Seminar Coordinator.

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CONFERENCES:

5. Proposals for NIH Conference on Implementation Due September 26
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) are calling for proposals for the 2nd Annual NIH Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation: Building Research Capacity to Bridge the Gap from Science to Service. Proposals are due on September 26, 2008. Submissions fall into three categories: (1) think tanks; (2) individual or panel oral presentations; and (3) posters. The range of scientific topics given priority for presentation are included in the Trans-NIH Program Announcement, *Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health* at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-07-086.html. The conference is January 28-29, 2009, in Bethesda, MD. Information about the conference and the proposal submission process can be found at http://conferences.thehillgroup.com/obssr/di2008/abstracts.html.

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