

## VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

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**DATA ISSUES BRIEF**

**MARCH 2007**

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### VA DATA AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS:

#### 1. Updates to VA Research Data Security & Privacy Web Site

The VA Research Data Security & Privacy page of the VA Research and Development (ORD) Web site (<http://www.research.va.gov/resources/policies/cybersecurity.cfm>) now includes a link to a current list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) as well as a link for emailing data security questions to ORD. All current data security and privacy policies are listed under three overarching categories covering training requirements, transcripts from field calls, and policies, memoranda, and other requirements (i.e., directives). The new requirement for principal investigators (PIs), "Certification by Principal Investigators: Security Requirements for VA Research Information," is listed under memoranda. PIs are required by April 2007 to carry out this new annual process of submitting a data security checklist and certifying storage and security of VA research information. There are also two new directives dealing with removable storage media and the protection of personally identifiable information (PII) that are of particular note as well.

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#### 2. METRIC Instruments Now Archived on VA HSR&D Web Site

The VA's Health Services Research and Development Service (HSR&D) Web site now has the popular instrument reviews that were previously posted on the Measurement Excellence and Training Resource Information Center (METRIC) Web site.

[http://www.hsrdr.research.va.gov/for\\_researchers/measurement/instrument/](http://www.hsrdr.research.va.gov/for_researchers/measurement/instrument/).

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### **3. MyHealtheVet Product Web Site**

The MyHealtheVet (MHV) program includes a page on its VA Intranet Web site for MyHealtheVet products (address given in the Intranet version of this *Data Issues Brief*). There are links on this page to documents regarding implementation strategies for deploying MVH in VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) and community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) nationwide. There is also a link to the conference call highlights for MHV points of contact (POCs) in February 2007. POCs function as network and facility champions and coordinate local MVH implementation, training, communications, marketing and support efforts. VA health services researchers may be interested in learning more about the current status of the MHV program, especially if they are considering researching the effects of patient interventions in improving the quality of VA health care.

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## **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **4. April Database and Methods Cyber Seminar**

The Cyber Seminars on Databases and Methods, sponsored by VIREC, take place at 12 pm ET on the first Tuesday of each month. The April seminar on Tuesday, April 3 will be presented by Amy Rosen, PhD. The title of her presentation is “Risk Adjustment Using VA Data.” Dr. Rosen is a VA HSR&D Research Career Scientist and Director of Risk Assessment and Patient Safety at the Center for Health Quality, Outcomes and Economic Research (VA Center of Excellence [COE] in Bedford MA). She is also Professor, Health Policy & Management, Boston University School of Public Health. Participants are welcome to join the session on a “first come, first serve” basis. Information on the series can be found at: [http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/for\\_researchers/cyber\\_seminars/catalog.cfm](http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/for_researchers/cyber_seminars/catalog.cfm). For further information contact Laurel Nevinslong at [laurel.nevinslong@va.gov](mailto:laurel.nevinslong@va.gov).

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### **5. April Clinical Informatics Cyber Seminar**

The Cyber Seminars on Clinical Informatics, sponsored by VIREC and the Center of Excellence on Implementing Evidence-Based Practice, take place at 12 pm ET on the third Tuesday of each month. The April seminar on Tuesday, April 17 will be presented by John Rumsfeld, MD, PhD. The title of his presentation is “The VA Cardiovascular Assessment Reporting and Tracking System for Cath Labs (CART-CL).” Dr. Rumsfeld is the Clinical Director for CART-CL and is the Clinical Coordinator for the Ischemic Heart Disease Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI). He is also a staff cardiologist and cardiovascular outcomes researcher at the Denver VA Medical Center, and is Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Participants are welcome to join the cyber seminar on a “first come, first serve” basis.

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### **6. AcademyHealth 2007 Annual Research Meeting Offers Methods Seminars**

There will be pre- and post-conference seminars in health services research methods at the AcademyHealth 2007 Annual Research Meeting, June 3-5 in Orlando FL. Hierarchical modeling, Bayesian methods, endogenous explanatory variables, and Healthcare Cost and Utilization (HCUP) and National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) data will be discussed. Additional registration is required. Registration by April 2 saves \$50. For more information go to <http://www.academyhealth.org/arm/adjunct/seminars.htm>.

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### **7. ERIC Summer Session Not Held in 2007**

The Seattle Epidemiologic Research and Information Center (ERIC) will not be conducting its annual session on Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Clinical Research Methods in the summer of 2007.

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## **CALL FOR PAPERS AND ABSTRACTS:**

### **8. American Journal of Public Health Calls for Manuscripts on Health Care for Veterans**

The *American Journal of Public Health (AJPH)* intends to publish a collection of manuscripts on Health Care for Veterans. They are interested in soliciting data-driven research, meta-analyses, and review or commentary manuscripts concerning health care for veterans. Emphasis will be directed at manuscripts that examine the subject in the context of the national effort to reform health care and to improve its quality and equity. To be considered for inclusion in this theme issue, manuscripts must be submitted by April 1, 2007. For more information go to the AJPH Web site: <http://www.ajph.org/>.

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## 9. VHA VeHU Calls for Presentation Abstracts for Summer 2007 Session

The Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) eHealth University (VeHU) is the VA's major annual training conference that provides education on the computerized patient record system (CPRS) and related clinical software (VistA) development by VHA. Each year VeHU highlights innovations towards patient care through classes on VHA's clinical informatics products. Details on the 2007 VeHU conference are not yet available, but researchers may be interested in submitting an abstract for possible presentation at VeHU 2007. Information can be found on the VA Intranet (address given in the Intranet version of this *Data Issues Brief*).

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