VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

DATA ISSUES BRIEF   **SEPTEMBER 2007**

Forget where you saw something? Visit the <u>Archive</u> to search among past *Data Issues Briefs*

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VIReC UPDATES:

1. Improved *Data Issues Brief* Archive
The VIReC *Data Issues Brief* – 2007 Archive includes two new features: (1) the search function is now limited to only *Data Issues Brief (DIB)* material; and (2) headlines from each issue of the *DIB* are listed by year and month so that researchers can easily peruse older *DIB* publications:
http://www.virec.research.va.gov/References/DataIssuesBrief/DIB_Arch_2007.htm.
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2. Acronyms Database Enhanced
VIReC has populated a new description field in the Acronyms Database with definitions to allow the database to also serve as a glossary. In addition, the search function has been expanded to include the glossary's definition for acronyms: http://www.virec.research.va.gov/References/Acronyms/index.cfm.
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VA DATA AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS:

3. ESM Releases Complete Redesign of Web Site
The Office of Enterprise Systems Management (ESM) is part of the Veterans Health Administration Office of Information (VHA OI). The purpose of this office is to work collaboratively with other OI components and VHA Program Offices to develop, implement and monitor the comprehensive portfolios of information technology (IT) systems. The new VA Intranet Web site provides an easy-to-use resource including a record of active software development projects, a VistA software package listing and program-related initiatives, a process description for new IT business service requests, etc. The address is given in the Intranet version of this *Data Issues Brief.*

4. VeHU 2007 Presentations Now Available
VHA's eHealth University 2007 (VeHU 2007) was held in Orlando FL from August 20-23. Slides from the many classes offered for providers, nurses, pharmacists, health information managers, etc. are now available on the VA Intranet Web site (click on Catalog 2007 in the left navigation pane). The address is given in the Intranet version of this *Data Issues Brief.* Plenary presentations by Dr. Madhulika Agarwal, Chief Patient Care Services Officer, General Robert T. Howard, Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology, and others are available in the Catalog 2007 (courses 900 – 903) or as a Podcast (in the left navigation pane on the VeHU 2007 home page cited above).

NON-VA DATA AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS:

5. Proposed CMS DRG Changes for FY08
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published a new ruling in the August 22 *Federal Register* (http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/07-3820.htm). The rule concerns the CMS inpatient prospective payment system (PPS) that is based on diagnostic-related groups (DRGs). There are four basic changes: (1) identification of 6 conditions, including three serious preventable events, for which CMS will not provide higher payments if the selected condition is not present at admission; (2) creation of 745 new Medicare-Severity DRGs (MS-DRGs) to replace the current 538 DRGs, and an overhaul of the complication/comorbidity list; (3) establishment of 5 new quality measures that hospitals will need to report in FY08 in order to qualify for the full market basket updated in FY09; and (4) the establishment of a new policy to change the way hospitals are paid for medical devices that are recalled or replaced at no or reduced cost to the hospital. An overview of the inpatient PPS DRG program can be found at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/AcuteInpatientPPS/01_overview.asp. VA training can be found at http://www.educode.com/vaees/.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

6. September Clinical Informatics Cyber Seminar

The Cyber Seminars on Clinical Informatics, sponsored by VIReC, take place at 12 pm ET on the third Tuesday of each month. Emily Patterson, PhD is presenting the September seminar on Tuesday, September 18 entitled "Using Human Factors Principles in the (Re)Design of Bar Code Medication Administration." Dr. Patterson is a Research Scientist at the Cincinnati VA Hospital and the VA Getting at Patient Safety (GAPS) Center in Cincinnati. She is also Associate Professor at Ohio State University in Cincinnati. Participants are welcome to join the session on a "first come, first serve" basis. 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.

7. ResDAC To Hold Workshop on the Use of Medicare Data
The Research Data Assistance Center (ResDAC) will host an upcoming workshop in Minneapolis on October 22-24 on the use of Medicare data. CMS 101, "Introduction to the Use of Medicare Data for Research," is a basic workshop in Medicare administrative data. Registration for the workshop opened on August 1, and ResDAC encourages people to register as soon as possible. More information can be found on ResDAC's Web site at http://www.resdac.umn.edu/training/cms101mn.asp.

CONFERENCES:

8. Society for Medical Decision Making Meeting October 21-24, 2007
The Society for Medical Decision Making (SMDM) will meet in Pittsburgh PA October 21-24, 2007. Meeting registration is now open at http://www.smdm.org/. SMDM's mission is to improve health outcomes through the advancement of proactive, systematic approaches to clinical decision making and by providing a forum to connect and educate researchers, providers, policy-makers and the public. This year's meeting will explore the science of decision making and consumer-driven, individualized health care.

9. American Medical Informatics Association Annual Symposium November 10-14, 2007
The American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) Annual Symposium will be held in Chicago IL November 10-14, 2007. The theme of this year's symposium is "Biomedical and Health Informatics: From Foundations to Applications to Policy." As stated on their Web site, "The spectrum of topics includes basic information science, knowledge modeling, technology applications, design strategies, health information exchange and communications, public policy, regional and international developments, standards, bioinformatics and genomics, and more." More information can be found on the Internet at http://www.amia.org/meetings/f07/.