



### 1. *VIREC Insights* Issue on HIPAA Privacy Issues

The latest issue of *VIREC Insights* is available. Entitled "Research Implications of the Privacy Standards Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)," the monograph includes, for example, a table of elements excluded from a "de-identified" data set vs. a "limited" data set. See *VIREC Insights* Vol. 4, No. 2 at <http://www.virec.research.va.gov>.

### 2. Latest Newsletter for Health Data Repository/Re-engineering CPRS

The Autumn 2003 issue of the *HDR/CPRS-R Newsletter* addresses some technical aspects of the Health Data Repository and Re-engineering CPRS projects that may interest end-users of these systems. See the VA Intranet at [REDACTED].

### 3. AHRQ RFAs for Health Information Technology Planning and Implementation Grants

AHRQ recently announced that it is seeking applications for approximately 100 grants to plan, implement, and demonstrate the value of health information technology to improve patient safety and quality of care. These grants will be part of a \$50 million portfolio of grants, contracts, and other activities to demonstrate the role of health information technology to improve patient safety and the quality of care. See : <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HS-04-010.html>, <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HS-04-011.html>, and <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HS-04-012.html>.

### 4. Panel Discussions at 2003 QUERI National Meeting Coordinated by VIREC

The 2003 QUERI National Meeting to be held December 10-12, 2003, will include two sessions coordinated and facilitated by VIREC:

- *Data Resources, Privacy, and Security: Things You Need To Know* will provide an update on HIPAA data privacy, with emphasis on database management and data sharing policies; an overview of HIPAA data security regulations; and an overview of VHA data sources and new informatics initiatives. Panelist will include Denise M. Hynes, PhD, Patricia L. Watts, JD, and Linda Kok, MA. Wednesday, December 10, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
- *Informatics Strategies to Support Healthcare Quality Improvement* will be moderated by Denise M. Hynes, PhD, and will highlight diverse uses of information technology in QUERI, describe use of informatics in the implementation phases in the QUERI process, and describe VHA CIO projects/developments that may impact quality improvement efforts. Panelists will include Bradley Doebbeling, MD, Mary K. Goldstein, PhD, John D. Piette, PhD, Alex Young, MD, and (Steven) Hank Rappaport, MD. Thursday, December 11, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

For information about the QUERI national meeting, visit

<http://www.hsrp.research.va.gov/research/queri/QUERI-Call-for-Abstracts.pdf>.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DISSEMINATE TO COLLEAGUES! *Data Issues Briefs* are developed by the staff of 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. *Data Issues Briefs* are produced monthly and are distributed through e-mail subscriptions. Previous releases are available on the VIREC Web site at <http://www.virec.research.va.gov>. If you wish to receive future issues directly or have any suggestions or comment about the *Data Issues Briefs*, please send an e-mail message to the VIREC at [virec@research.hines.va.gov](mailto:virec@research.hines.va.gov) or call (708) 202-2413.

