VHA Corporate Databases Monograph

2000-2001

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**VHA Office of Information
System Design & Development
(SD&D)**

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Introduction

The delivery of quality health care services to eligible veterans is one of the primary missions of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Within the Department, Veterans Health Administration (VHA) operates the largest centrally directed health care system in the United States. In 172 Medical Centers, approximately 551 ambulatory and community-based clinics, 131 nursing homes, and 40 domiciliaries, electronic information systems provide vital support to the delivery of health care to veterans. During fiscal year 1998, these facilities treated approximately 617,121 inpatients and recorded 34,971,951 outpatient visits.

Background

Year 2000 analysis and renovation efforts within the Department of Veterans Affairs identified numerous databases used by both limited and broad user groups. Following the establishment of the initial inventory of databases in late 1998, an intense research process was undertaken to determine more about these databases to profile where and how Veterans Health Administration has constructed and actively uses enterprise-wide databases. As a result of this research, this volume provides introduction, overview, and features of each actively used VHA corporate database.

VHA's System Design and Development (SD&D) division of the Office of Information began this research effort in 1999 with several goals in mind:

- Create and maintain an inventory of VHA corporate databases.
- Identify opportunities for consolidation or optimization where data redundancies or questionable data sources exist.
- Collaborate with HSR&D, Policy and Planning and other headquarters offices to identify authoritative data sources.
- Establish a corporate data registry for VHA's use to provide a master list and detailed descriptions of all corporate data elements for user education and future development purposes.
- Collaborate with VHA Data Quality committees, implementing data standardization and quality control processes for corporate databases.

Awareness of these databases increases the organization's ability to perform analysis critical to policy, managerial and clinical decision-making.

By creating these monographs, health services researchers and database/system developers will be able to review the availability of these databases, and in the future through establishment of the corporate data registry, will consider the contents of these databases more efficiently and accurately in their work.

Criteria

The following definition was used for classification of data files as corporate or national databases:

- A repository of VHA enterprise-level data stored electronically that is obtained either from VHA data collection activities or derived from such data, maintained by VA or VHA offices and shared between VA facilities and business partners.

- The database must be either be in the design or development phases, or be implemented and actively used.

This Booklet

This collection of monographs serves as an introduction to VHA databases that comprise the national consolidation of information from our integrated hospital information systems. The databases are grouped into the following Business Subject Areas:

Financial - databases primarily housing financial data
Human Resources – databases primarily housing personnel data
Operations and Logistics – databases providing facility management support
Organizational Management – databases providing workload management support
Patient Data – databases housing veteran information

It should be recognized that some databases can be categorized into multiple Business Subject Areas but are shown under their primary category.

Each database monograph contains an Overview, Features and Important Database Characteristics Table. The following descriptions elaborate on the items in the Database Characteristics Table:

- Program Office: Organization responsible for the <u>oversight</u> of the database.

- Responsible Office: Organization responsible for <u>maintenance</u> of the database.

- Status – Current status of the database.

- Size – Volume of the database (ex. 1000KB, 10MB, 1.2GB, 1TB).

- Data Registry – Specified if the database is a recognized VHA registry.

- Business Area – Name of the primary business subject area.

- Time Frame –Time-span of the data in database, given in years.

- Hardware – Name of the computer hardware supporting the database.

- O/S – Name of the operating system under which the database is running.

- Storage Method – Name of the database management system or file structure in use.

- Source of Data – Description of where the database obtains its information.

- Physical Location – Geographic location where the database resides.

Requesting Corporate Data

All requests for information stored in the VHA databases publicized in this booklet are subject to the regulations of the Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) and reviewed by each database's data steward, and possibly the VHA Privacy Officer, on a case-by-case basis.

Requests for information from these databases will be assessed by the responsible program office and communicated to the database's custodian for attention at its physical location.

Note:

Under FOIA, certain records may be withheld in whole or in part from the requestor if they fall within one of nine FOIA exemptions. Four of these exemptions form the basis for the withholding of software by the VHA:

- Protects certain records related solely to VHA's internal rules and practices.

- Protects information that is prohibited from disclosure by other laws.

- Protects trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information.

- Protects certain interagency and intra-agency communications.

CHAMPVA (Civilian Health and Medical Program of VA) Eligibility & Payment Functions (CVA)

Overview

CHAMPVA (Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs) is a healthcare benefit program designed for the dependents of certain veterans. Administered by the Health Administration Center (HAC), Denver, CO, CHAMPVA shares the cost of necessary healthcare services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries. The CHAMPVA Eligibility & Payment Functions (CVA) computer application is the database used by HAC in the administration of the CHAMPVA program.

Features

- Provides online access to eligibility and medical payment information for medical claims submitted to CHAMPVA.

- Provides online reporting for verification of congressional mandates.

- Provides justification and accountability for funds expended.

- Provides performance measurements.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Finance (17)			Health Administration Center (741)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	50 GB	NO	Financial	1987-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
DEC ALPHA	VMS	VA FileMan	VAMCs, FMS, DEERS, VBA, non-VHA facilities utilized by eligible dependents	Health Administration Center, Denver, CO

Compensation and Pension Mini-Master File (CNP)

Overview

The Compensation and Pension Mini-Master File (CNP) consists of selected fields from the Compensation & Pension (C&P) Master File maintained at the Hines Benefits Delivery Center (BDC), which contains data related to distribution of benefits. It is a SAS formatted file that is primarily used by planners.

There are two kinds of master records in the main file:
- Type A   Veteran's Master Record
- Type B   Death Payee

The data is created at the Hines Benefits Delivery Center and is stored on a tape cartridge and mailed to Austin Automation Center (AAC).   The files are updated every two months and are maintained by VBA personnel.

This file contains 300 characters of data extracted from the C&P Master File and is widely used by Hines for recurring and one-time extracts.

Feature

- The mini-master file provides a data source which can be used to generate customized files and reports.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Finance (17)			Austin Automation Center (200)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	1.2 GB	NO	Financial	1979-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	OS390	Flat File	VBA	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Consolidated Co-payment Processing Center (CCPC)

Overview

The Consolidated Copayment Processing Center (CCPC) database is a data file containing addresses of veteran patients that require billing statements to be mailed. The CCPC system is designed to handle first-party medical debt billing information.

First-party billing is defined as a debt where the patient is responsible for repayment. This differs from third-party billing where another party (e.g., insurance company, Health Maintenance Organization (HMO)) is primarily responsible for repaying the VA. CCPC does not handle third-party billing information.

The VistA Accounts Receivable (AR) module collects information for CCPC at every VA Medical Center. A daily batch process is used to collect the information. The information is kept active on the system for a period of one month. A master list containing six months' activity is archived for reference should historical information be needed.

The users of this database include the VAMCs, VHA Revenue Office, and the patients who receive billing statements.

Features

- Provides information for generating billing statements.

- Provides trend analysis for billing information.

- Allows the generation of billing statements.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Finance (17)			VHA Revenue Office (174B)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	5.5 GB	NO	Financial	1997-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	OS/390	Flat File/ VSAM	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Cost Distribution Report (CDR)

Overview

Cost Distribution Report (CDR) provides summary information about Veterans Affairs costs, Full Time Equivalents (FTE), and workload (number of patient bed days, outpatient clinic stops, etc.). CDR emerged from the Automated Management Information System (AMIS) to provide the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) with a flexible cost reporting system.

The CDR is assembled from information from all VA Medical Centers (VAMCs). It receives data feeds from the Financial Management System (FMS) via an extract process at the Austin Automation Center (AAC). Cost distribution percentages from service chiefs are incorporated by online entry into CDR at each VAMC.

CDR provides users with a series of menu-driven screens for online interactive data entry. Each VAMC is able to select from a master list of valid accounts for their facility based on the types of services provided. CDR is processed monthly and quarterly. It is written in IDMS Cobol and ADSO Language.

The primary users of CDR are the VAMCs, Veterans Health Administration Budget Office, Medical Care Cost Recovery, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget.

Features

- Provides medical facilities with online access to CDR for:
    - making adjustments (update and delete) to existing financial accounts
    - creating new accounts as needed

- Allows users to compare facility and Medical Center per unit cost to nationwide per unit cost.

- Reduces data entry requirements.

- Provides end-user queries and ad hoc reporting.

- Provides online access to FMS for cost center information and percentage calculations.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Finance (17)			Implementation & Training Service (194B)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	4245.75 MB	NO	Financial	1967-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	OS390	IDMS	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Non-VA Fee Basis Medical System (FEE)

Overview

The Non-VA Fee Basis Medical System (FEE) automates the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Fee for Service program. It authorizes and pays private physicians, hospitals, and pharmacists and others for products and services provided to veterans approved for the program. Veterans are reimbursed through FEE for medically- related expenses including travel.

Information is entered into the FEE system through the Veterans Health Information System and Architecture (VistA) online menus. FEE is run at the AAC and interfaces with the Financial Management System (FMS), the Beneficiary Identification and Records Locator System (BIRLS), the VHA Work Measurement database (VWM), to produce payments, accounting updates, and reports.

FEE facilitates money management, master record updating, and input error resolution. Daily reports indicating all payments processed and erroneous input transactions are transmitted to approximately 170 Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs). Letters are sent to veterans on a monthly basis detailing payments made on their behalf to Fee for Service providers. Monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual reports are available, via web access, to the Veterans Affairs Central Office (VACO) and VAMCs.

Features

- Provides tracking of patient-, program-, and vendor-specific information. Provides VAMCs authorization capability for individual or batch payments and the functionality to re-initiate previously rejected payments. Provides the cost and quantity of non-VA inpatient and outpatient care given to Fee for Service eligible veterans.

- Provides geographic distribution of Fee for Service providers.

- Provides online reporting capability. These reports assist in the management of the FEE program at the VAMCs and identify workload incurred by each Primary Service Area (PSA).

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of the Under Secretary for Health (10)			Health Administration Service (10C3)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	5.8 GB	NO	Financial	1975-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	OS390	ORACLE	VAMCs, BIRLS, FMS	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Foreign Medical Program (FMP)

Overview

The Foreign Medical Program (FMP) is a healthcare benefits program designed for US veterans with Veterans Affairs-rated service-connected conditions who are residing or traveling abroad (Canada and Philippines excluded).

Under FMP, VA assumes payment responsibility for certain necessary medical services associated with the treatment of these service-connected conditions.

The FMP database stores necessary information about veterans eligible for foreign payment or reimbursement. Included is information about the services used and expenses incurred.

FMP shares files with CHAMPVA (Civilian Health and Medical Program of VA) Eligibility & Payment Functions (CVA), and resides on the same server at the Health Administration Center (HAC) at Denver, Colorado. The HAC is a division of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Office of Finance.

Features

- Provides payment or reimbursement of covered medical expenses to eligible veterans while living or traveling abroad.

- Stores all FMP information on eligible veterans including their treatment and medical expense histories.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Finance (17)			Health Administration Center (741)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	140 MB	NO	Financial	1994-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
DEC ALPHA	VMS	VA FileMan	VBA, Foreign Care Providers	Health Administration Center, Denver, CO

Lockbox

Overview

Lockbox is designed to handle first-party medical debt payments. First-party medical debt is defined as a debt where the patient is responsible for the payment. This differs from third-party debt where another party (e.g., insurance company, health maintenance organization) is primarily responsible for paying the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Lockbox is the second phase of the Consolidated Copayment Processing Center (CCPC) initiative. There will be new development as well as enhancements to the printing portion of the CCPC's system running at the Austin Automation Center (AAC). This database receives information from the Accounts Receivable module of the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA).

Debtors mail their payments to a Lockbox bank. The present agreement is with Bank of America in Atlanta, Georgia. The Lockbox bank opens and sorts mail, electronically captures and sends payment information, deposits payments, and forwards mail, reports and returned checks to the Financial Services Exception Processing Center (FSC EPS).

A file relationship between CCPC-Lockbox and the National Patient Care Database is being established to facilitate inquiries on payment data.

The users of this system include FSC EPS, the Financial Management System (FMS), and the VA Medical Centers (VAMCs).

Features

- Provides automated processing of payments.

- Provides central collection point for payments.

- Provides reporting and inquiry capability.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Finance (17)			Field Support Services (174)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	20	YES	Financial	1999-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
Sun Solaris	UNIX	ORACLE	Lockbox Bank	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

MCCR National Database (MCCR NDB)

Overview

The Medical Care Cost Recovery National Database (MCCR NDB) provides a repository of summary MCCR billing and collection information used by program management to compare facility performance. It stores summary information for Veterans Health Administration (VHA) receivables including the number of receivables and their summarized status information. This database is used to monitor the status of the VHA's collection process and to provide visibility on the types of bills and collections being done by the Department.

The mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Care Cost Recovery (MCCR) Program is to maximize the recovery of funds due VA for the provision of health care services to veterans, dependents, and others using the VA system. Legislation has authorized MCCR to:
- submit claims to and recover payments from veterans' third party health insurance carriers for treatment of non-service-connected conditions;
- recover co-payments from certain veterans for treatment of non-service-connected conditions; and
- recover co-payments for medications from certain veterans for treatment of non-service-connected conditions.

All of the information captured in the MCCR NDB is derived from the Accounts Receivable (AR) modules running at each Medical Center. MCCR NDB is not used for official AR figures, instead, the Department uses the Financial Management System (FMS).

Features

- Provides a national view of VA facility medical care cost recovery activities.
- Allows sites to determine when extraction routines are run locally.
- Provides national and regional reports including Schedule-9 for the Department of the Treasury and third party billing coverage reports.
- Formats information sent from Medical Centers and sends the report back to Medical Center once information is added to MCCR NDB.
- Provides an audit trail for the automatic data extraction process ensuring only authorized processes are reviewing facility information.
- Provides centralized monthly reporting by categories with totals for the whole VHA system.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Finance (17)			Office of Information (19)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	2 GB	NO	Financial	1993-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
DEC ALPHA	VMS	VA FileMan	VAMCs	OI Field Office, Albany, NY

National Resource Management Information System (NRMIS)

Overview

The National Resource Management Information System (NRMIS) database supports three nationwide Veterans Health Administration annual surveys: Infectious Diseases, Prosthetics Budget and Research Budget Allocation.

NRMIS collects and validates fiscal information using secure mechanisms for review and approval.

It can generate the corresponding Automated Allocation and Control System (AACS) transactions and transmit bulk transactions (for prosthetics and research budgets only) to the Austin Automation Center (AAC).

This database is marked for elimination in 2000.

Feature

- Permits automated accumulation of fiscal data from every hospital.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Finance (17)			Resource Allocation & Execution Office (172)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	9 MB	NO	Financial	1985-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
DEC ALPHA	VMS	VA FileMan	All VAMCs	OI Field Office, Silver Spring, MD

Non-VA Hospital System (NVH)

Overview

The Veterans Health Administration pays for care provided to Veteran Affairs beneficiaries in non-VA hospitals through its contract hospitalization program as mandated by Congress in the late 1980s.

The NVH software captures the patient's Demographics, Provider, Hospital Name and Location, Medicare Provider Number, Diagnoses and Procedures for which the patient received care during his/her inpatient stay. The data is received from either the patient or the Medical Center providing the care - normally on a UB-92 form.

The billing office employee enters the information into the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) application and sends information to the Austin Automation Center (AAC) via a Health Level Seven (HL7) message.

The non-VA hospitals are reimbursed at Medicare rates based on the Prospective System (PPS). PPS uses the appropriate Diagnostic Related Groups (DRGs). Each DRG has a different rate-adjusted reimbursement based on the regional and urban/rural designation of the provider non-VA Hospitals.

NVH is housed at the AAC and uses software developed by the AAC in conjunction with 3M and Health Care Finance Administration Software (HCFA). It is a batch system written in COBOL, ALC, and SAS. Processing occurs daily.

The primary customer is the Director of Health Administration Service.

Features

- Provides cost and DRG information to the Veterans Affairs Medical Centers for private care hospitalizations.

- Provides reports for the Health/Medical Administration or appropriate Program Offices and Fiscal Offices.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of the Under Secretary for Health (10)			Health Administration Service (10C3)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	9.2 GB	NO	Financial	1985-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	OS390	Flat File	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

VA Drug Pricing Database (PL 102-585)

Overview

The VA Drug Pricing database contains the current prices for pharmaceuticals purchased by the federal government. These listed prices are based on the Federal Supply Schedule (FSS). This database is mandated by Public Law 102-585, the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992, which sets the maximum amount that a drug may be bought for by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA).

The source of this information is contained in printed contracts or data files supplied by the drug manufacturers, representing the pricing agreements between VHA and the manufacturers. Price data is input by the National Acquisition Center (NAC) into the database administered by the Pharmacy Benefits Management Strategic Healthcare Group. Information from this database is published on the World Wide Web at the following site: http://www.dppm.med.va.gov.

The users of this database include pharmaceutical manufacturers, drug wholesalers, and those who purchase pharmaceuticals for the VHA.

Features

- Provides current government drug prices.

- Provides World Wide Web users quick and easy access to the information.

- Provides the information in dBASE III file format for use by most PC-based database and spreadsheet applications.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Patient Care Services (11)			Pharmacy Benefits Management Strategic Healthcare Group (119D)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	10 MB	NO	Financial	1993-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
PC LAN	Windows NT	FoxPro	Pharmaceutical Manufacturers, FSS Pricing Schedule	OI Field Office, Hines, IL

Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation (VERA)

Overview

The Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation (VERA) database, formerly called Resource Planning & Management (RPM), is operated by the Allocation Resource Center (ARC) in Braintree, MA. The ARC is part of the Resource Allocation & Execution Office of the Office of Finance.

The database is developed from the Patient Treatment File, National Patient Care Database, Fee, Cost Distribution Report (CDR), Patient Assessment File (PAF), Immunology Case Registry, Home Dialysis Data Collection System, and the Pharmacy database.

Data is collected at the Austin Automation Center via VistA and sent to the ARC each month. Alternatively the ARC at times collects it directly from the facilities via Forum or on disk.

The data from these sources is combined to develop patient-specific care and cost data for each hospitalization or VistA at the location or treatment level. Aggregate tables summarize this data for reporting and analysis purposes. The VERA databases are the basis for resource allocation in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA).

Features

- Combines patient care data and cost data to create patient specific costing which is used in resource allocation, projections and planning.

- Supports resource redistribution models based on trends in case-mix, utilization, demographics, etc.

- Makes possible efficiency analyses, practice pattern, disease tracking and other studies in addition to resource allocation.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Finance (17)			Resource Allocation & Execution Office (172)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	500 GB	NO	Financial	1989-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
DEC ALPHA	VMS 7.1	ORACLE	CDR, EDR, ICR, OPF, PAF, PTF, VAMCs	Allocation Resource Center, Boston, MA

Automated Safety Incident Surveillance and Tracking System (ASISTS)

Overview

The Automated Safety Incident Surveillance and Tracking System (ASISTS) is a repository of Veteran Health Administration (VHA) employee accident data. While many types of accidents are captured, the initial primary focus of the ASISTS database is to track and report on employee exposures to blood borne pathogens through needle sticks, sharps, and body fluids.

Data is captured locally at Medical Centers using the ASISTS package in the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA). On a monthly basis, extracts from this local data are sent to the national database via Mailman messages. The central repository is maintained by the VISN Support Service Center (VSSC) and is located at the Austin Automation Center (AAC). Data is also extracted on an ad hoc basis from the Workers Compensation Management Information System (WC-MIS) and merged with the data received from the facilities to produce customized reports needed by the users.

ASISTS is currently under development. Additionally, there are plans to place its data on the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) intranet to be accessible from the VSSC Web page. The primary users of ASISTS include the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the VSSC, the directors of the Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs), VA Headquarters, and occupational health and safety professionals located at each medical facility.

Features

- Fullfills reporting requirement mandated by OSHA.

- Will identify trends and proactive strategies for preventing needle sticks and other exposures to blood borne pathogens.

- Web-based reporting capability for creation of reports depicting accident data on a national, VISN, and facility level.

- Creation of reports depicts accident data on a national, VISN, and facility level.

- Accident data can be compared between VISNs and facilities.

- Electronic transmission of Workers' compensation claims can also be filed.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of the Chief Network Officer (10N)			VISN Support Service Center (10NS)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
DESIGN/ DEVELOPMENT	N/A	NO	Human Resources	1999 - Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	MVS	SAS	VAMCs, WC-MIS	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Executive Information System (EIS)

Overview

The Executive Information System (EIS) database contains information on people, positions, organizations, and locations of Veterans Health Administration (VHA) top management positions. Headquarters and Veterans Integrated Systems Network (VISN) managers and staff, facility directors, associate directors, chiefs of staff, and other senior clinical and administrative field managers positions are included.

The VHA Executive Management Program consists of the functions that fall under the purview of the VHA Executive Resources Board (ERB) and the VHA Performance Review Board (PRB). Their functions include executive development, recruitment and placement; organizational analysis; succession planning; and performance assessment and recognition.

The method used to collect this information is a VistA-based system using m technology on the FORUM system. Information from this database is joined and expanded with information from the VHA executive program processes i.e. organization, vacancies, recruitment efforts, performance, etc.

This combination of information is used in the administration of the ERB and PRB functions. The sharing and development of information involving executives and organizations provides an effective means for accomplishing the ERB and PRB objectives.

Feature

- Provides management tracking.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of the Under Secretary for Health (10)			Management Support Office (10A2)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	150 MB	NO	Human Resources	1999-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
Sun Solaris	UNIX	M/VistA	VACO, VISNS	OI Field Office, Silver Spring, MD

Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers (GRECC) - Hines

Overview

The Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers (GRECC) database tracks information on the following:

- GRECC's administrative functions
- Personnel
- Research awards and projects
- Publications
- Clinical programs
- Continuing education
- Outreach and consultation
- Trainee activities
- Other professional activities and awards

Personnel at GRECC sites enter information throughout the year. At the end of the fiscal year, this information is transmitted from each GRECC site to the Geriatrics and Extended Care Strategic Healthcare Group as part of an annual report.

At present there are two versions of the GRECC database. This version located in the Hines Office of Information Field Office contains data from fiscal year 1989 to fiscal year 1998. The second version is currently housed at the GRECC site in Salt Lake City and contains information from fiscal year 1999 to the present. Current plans will merge the Hines information with the Salt Lake City information so all data will reside in the Salt Lake City database. The main user of this database is the Geriatrics and Extended Care Strategic Healthcare Group in VHA Headquarters.

Features

- Provides historical data for trend analysis.
- Monitors performance of GRECC sites and tracks site activities.
- Provides reporting capability for responses to inquiries from:
    – Congress; Department of Veterans Affairs; other interested governmental agencies
    – Other public and private organizations
    – The general public

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Patient Care Services (11)			Geriatrics & Extended Care Strategic Healthcare Group (114)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	4 MB	NO	Human Resources	1989-1998
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
ALPHA 1000A	Open VMS 6.2	DSM	VAMCs	OI Field Office, Hines, IL

Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers (GRECC) - Salt Lake City

Overview

The Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers (GRECC) database tracks information on the following:
- GRECCs' administrative functions
- Personnel
- Research awards and projects
- Publications
- Clinical programs
- Continuing education
- Outreach and consultation
- Trainee activities
- Other professional activities and awards.

Personnel at GRECC sites enter information throughout the year. At the end of the fiscal year, this information is transmitted from each GRECC site to the Geriatrics and Extended Care Strategic Healthcare Group as part of an annual report.

At present there are two versions of the GRECC database. This version is located at the GRECC site in Salt Lake City and contains data from fiscal year 1999 to the present. The second version is currently housed in the Hines Office of Information Field Office and contains information from fiscal year 1989 to fiscal year 1998. Current plans are to merge the Hines information with this database so all the system's information will reside in the Salt Lake City database. The main user of this database is the Geriatrics and Extended Care Strategic Healthcare Group in VHA Headquarters.

Features

- Provides historical data for trend analysis. Monitors performance of GRECC sites and tracks site activities. Provides reporting capability for responses to inquires from:
  - Congress
  - Department of Veterans Affairs
  - Other interested governmental agencies
  - Other public and private agencies and the general public

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Patient Care Services (11)			Geriatrics & Extended Care Strategic Healthcare Group (114)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	4.3 MB	NO	Human Resources	FY1999-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
Compaq Proliant 2500	Windows NT	MS Access	VAMCs	Geriatric, Research, Education and Clinical Centers, Salt Lake City, UT

Health Care Resources Sharing

Overview

The Health Care Resources Sharing database is used to track and monitor the status of legal and technical reviews of proposed contracts from Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs). These contracts with non-federal entities concern the buying and selling of medical services. Services can be provided for health care functions within the Medical Center.

Information is provided by the VAMCs to the Sharing and Purchasing Office. A current contract list is produced from this information as well as the annual report to Congress on program activity.

Features

- Collects medical service contract information.

- Provides approved or disapproved status of medical contracts.

- Provides a data source for ad hoc requests for the purchase or sale of medical resources.

- Creates ad hoc reports of medical resources by facility or type of service.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Finance (17)			Medical Sharing and Purchasing Office (175)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	4.16 MB	YES	Human Resources	1995-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
PC LAN	Windows 98	MS Access	VAMCs	VACO, Washington, DC

Health Services Training Report Database

Overview

The Health Services Training Report Database tracks compensation by cooperating institutions for Medical Center health services trainees and interns.

Information in the database comes from all Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs) with residency programs. Worksheets and memos are distributed to participating VAMCs by the Office of Academic Affiliations annually. VAMC personnel enter the information electronically into the database located at the Academic Information Management Center (AIMC) in St. Louis, Missouri.

The main user of this database is the Office of Academic Affiliations.

Features

- Provides multi-year cost projections based on actual and estimated costs.

- Provides resident population tracking in participating VAMCs.

- Provides reporting capability to Office of Academic Affiliations as to the number of Residents on-duty during the day.

- Allows the efficient allocation of physicians throughout VAMCs.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Academic Affiliations (14)			Office of Academic Affiliations (14)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	500 KB	NO	Human Resources	1997-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
ALPHA MINI	NT Server/ Intersystems M	VA FileMan	VAMCs	Academic Information Management Center, St. Louis, MO

National Chaplain Database

Overview

The National Chaplain Database serves as a registry for information on chaplains throughout the Veterans Health Administration. The National Chaplain Center records and coordinates information from chaplains and chiefs of chaplains on vacancies and applicants for chaplain positions throughout the VHA.

The information allows:
- coordination of chaplain research proposals and projects;
- analysis of chaplain services;
- identification of the number and kind of employees; and
- identification of the number of hours worked.

Periodic upgrades to the database have enhanced its functionality in recent years. The database is a management tool, but can also be used for research (e.g., integrating patient data with chaplains using aggregated patient information). When a chaplain leaves the system for any reason, the information is removed and archived, however it remains available if needed.

The database is used by the National Chaplain Center, all chaplains throughout the VHA, and the VACO.

Features

- Provides real time access to chaplain information for chaplains and chiefs of chaplains.

- Permits data entry from everywhere in the VHA including the Veterans Affairs Central Office (VACO).

- Provides information on chaplain vacancies, and applicants for vacancies.

- Functions as a VHA wide registry for all chaplain information.

- Provides a national Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) Mailman e-mail link between all chaplains facilitating communication.

- Permits conducting of research in the clinical and administrative activities of chaplains.

- Makes it possible to conduct real-time surveys of chaplains, for example, needs assessments, policy clarification, immediate feedback on specific questions, etc.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Patient Care Services (111)			Chaplain Service (301/110C)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	400 MB	YES	Human Resources	1995-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
PC	NT	VA FileMan	VACO, VAMCs	VAMC, Hampton, VA

National Training Calendar

Overview

The National Training Calendar database is used to reserve and schedule satellite time for broadcasting live training programs. Veterans Health Administration (VHA) employees are the intended audience.

Information about the training programs is put together by the program's producers. Staff members then directly enter into the National Training Calendar database from the Office of Information (OI) or the Office of Employee Education (OEE).

The users of this database include the OI and the OEE.

Features

- Avoids scheduling conflicts of satellite broadcast time.

- Provides a summary list of scheduled programs.

- Provides reports that can be distributed via FORUM and Exchange to members of mail groups.

- Provides notification of schedule changes via FORUM and Exchange to the OEE and other interested parties.

- Provides data for conversion to HyperText Markup Language (HTML) display on a web page of the Department of Veterans Affairs' Intranet.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Employee Education System (102)			Employee Education System (102)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	1 MB	NO	Human Resources	1994-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
ALPHA MINI	NT Server/ Intersystems M	VA FileMan	Employee Educational System	Academic Information Management Center, St. Louis, MO

Report of VA Medical Training Programs

Overview

The Report of VA Medical Training Programs Database is used to track Medical Center health services trainees and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) physicians serving as faculty. The database also tracks the number of U.S. and international medical residents on-duty at a VA Medical Center (VAMC).

Information in the database comes from all VAMCs that have residency programs. The Office of Academic Affiliations distributes worksheets and memos to participating VAMCs annually. VAMC personnel enter the information electronically into the database located at the Academic Information Management Center (AIMC) in St. Louis, Missouri.

The main user of this database is the Office of Academic Affiliations which uses the reports from the system to assist in its decision making.

Features

- Provides information for making staffing decisions.

- Provides total count of full and part time VA physicians serving as faculty.

- Provides the number of medical students by Medical Center.

- Provides a total count of foreign medical students and graduates.

- Provides medical graduate reporting by specialty (medical, geriatric, surgery, etc.) and sub-specialty.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Academic Affiliations (14)			Office of Academic Affiliations (14)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	5 MB	NO	Human Resources	1996-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
ALPHA MINI	NT Server/ Intersystems M	VA FileMan	VAMCs	Academic Information Management Center, St. Louis, MO

Residency Allocation Database

Overview

The Residency Allocation Database is used to determine allocation of funds for residency programs offered by Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs).

Information for the database comes from any VAMC that has made a funding request for its residency programs. The Office of Academic Affiliations distributes worksheets and memos are sent to participating VAMCs. VAMC personnel enter the information electronically into the database housed at the Academic Information Management Center (AIMC) located in St. Louis, Missouri.

The data entry and collection process is done annually beginning in September and ending in December.

The main user of this database is the Office of Academic Affiliations.

Features

- Allows the Office of Academic Affiliations to allocate residency positions throughout the VAMC system.

- Provides tracking of funding request changes.

- Provides AIMC personnel statistics for funding projections and trend analysis.

- Allows capture of residency program information for thirty-eight medical specialties.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Academic Affiliations (14)			Office of Academic Affiliations (14)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	5 MB	NO	Human Resources	1993-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
ALPHA MINI	NT Server/ Intersystems M	VA FileMan	VAMCs	Academic Information Management Center, St. Louis, MO

Tracking Continuing Education (TRACE)

Overview

The Tracking Continuing Education (TRACE) database is designed to capture information about educational programs and other products and services offered by VHA's Employee Education System (EES).

TRACE tracks participant information for EES programs including registration and course completion status. The database contains information on assignments of faculty and staff.

The system creates Travel Disbursement Authorities (TDAs) which authorize the use of funds for travel by faculty and staff participating in the design, development and delivery of educational programming.

Features

- Provides reports on the numbers and types of programs, products and services offered by EES.

- Provides reports on the numbers of participants (students, faculty and staff) for EES educational programs.

- Provides certificates of course completion for program participants.

- Provides collection point for faculty and student information for EES programs.

- Provides various internal organizational reports for EES management.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Employee Education (102)			Office of Employee Education (102)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	66 MB	NO	Human Resources	1995-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
ALPHA MINI	NT Server/ Intersystems M	VA FileMan	VAMCs	Academic Information Management Center, St. Louis, MO

VA Voluntary Service (VAV)

Overview

The VA Voluntary Service (VAV) System provides reports on volunteer participation to all organizations involved in active volunteering at each VA Facility, including the organizations on the Veterans Affairs (VA) Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee. It also provides a number of statistical reports to medical facilities on how volunteer assistance was used and creates potential award recipient lists.

The system stores information about the volunteer including name, address, age, SSN, etc., the hours worked, the number of visits, the service area using the volunteer's assistance, and the service organization(s) the volunteer is associated with.

VAV is housed and maintained at the Austin Automation Center (AAC). It is a batch system written in Cobol, DYL2xx, and SAS. Processing is done monthly, quarterly, semi-annually and annually.

The primary user is Voluntary Service Office.

Features

- Provides summary reports by volunteer organization and services provided.

- Provides lists of services represented at various organizational levels.

- Provides lists of current and terminated volunteers.

- Provides the needed information for awards tracking.

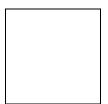| Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of the Under Secretary for Health (10)			Voluntary Service Office (10C2)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	63.48 GB	NO	Human Resources	1970-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	MVS	Flat File	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Virtual Learning Center (VLC)

Overview

The Virtual Learning Center (VLC) was developed by the VHA Office of Special Projects as a systematic mechanism for VA employees to share innovations and lesons learned from errors (Patient Safety) and to allow others to have easy access to this information saving time and resources when seeking ways to address similar needs. The Virtual Learning Center was activated in December 1997. In June 1999, this tool became available on the internet making this systematic sharing mechanism available to not only the VA, but any agency or organization wishing to use it.

The VLC is intended to be a knowledge management source for VistA cycle exchange of informal knowledge serving as a repository for easity searchable information, a gateway to other information sources, and a "place" where workforce members can conslt with and engage colleagues in dialogue.

Features

- Personal Profile - Notifies users when new lessons and innovations in their area of interest are submitted to the VLC.

- Front Line Revolution - Enables front line and other members of the VA workforce to share their ideas for redesigning systems, saving resources, streamlining work processes, improving customer service, and decreasing unnecessary regulations.

- VA Leader - Allows VA Leaders in all administrations to share informal career-related knowledge in the form of stories for the VA workforce who want to enhance their leadership skills.

- Ask Colleagues - Allows asynchronous consultations among VA employees and with experts.

- Links - Provides a link to other web sites with related information.

- Communities of Practice - Provides a dynamic forum for groups to come together to discuss and share information.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Communications (10C)			VHA Office of Special Projects (10C5)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	100 MB	NO	Human Resources	1997-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
DELL SERVER	Windows NT	MS SQL SERVER	VAMCs	OI Field Office, Silver Springs, MD

Operations and Logistics Databases

Architect/Engineer Rating System (AERATES)

Overview

The Architect and Engineering Rating database (AERATES) stores ratings on architect and engineering contracting firms along with Indefinite Quantity Consultants providing design and consulting services to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Ratings are performed at various milestones during the design and construction process by VA program managers and technical staff

AERATES gathers information according to requirements set forth in the Brooks Act. It also meets the requirements for the Federal Acquisition Review (FAR) and the Veterans Affairs Acquisition Review (VAAR).

The Facilities Quality Service uses the database information for the selection process when hiring architectural and engineering firms for VA work.

Features

- Stores individual performance ratings on consultants and contractors for non-delegated major VA construction projects in 10 disciplines: architecture, interior design, structural engineering, heating/air conditioning, plumbing, civil engineering, fire protection, electrical engineering, landscape architecture and estimating.

- Stores numerical ratings for: accuracy, completeness, cooperation, coordination, management, meeting schedules, personnel ability and quality of work.

- Provides an overall average score for each reviewer.

- Ensures compliance with Brooks Act, FAR and VAAR reporting requirements for rating contractors doing business with the VA.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Facilities Management (18)			Facilities Quality Office (193)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	2 MB	NO	Operations and Logistics	1979-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
VAX	UNIX	ORACLE	VAMCs	VACO, Washington, DC

Bed Control

Overview

The Bed Control database records the levels of operating and of authorized beds at each Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC), and tracks requests for changes in these levels. For changes in operating bed levels, the Director of a Medical Center notifies the Director of the respective Veterans Integrated Support Network (VISN). The VISN bed control planner enters the change notice into the database and sends a confirmation to the Medical Center Director.

For a request to change the authorized bed level, the process is similar, except that it requires the prior approval of the VISN director to become effective. The VISN bed control planner enters the change request into the database, which tracks the approval process, and sends the Medical Center a message notification at each stage of that process (transmission, cancellation, approval). When changes are approved, the database updates its bed level information accordingly.

Features

- Provides quick entry of operating and/or authorized bed level change requests by planners for the VISN Director.

- Generates cumulative national, state, regional, site, and station bed control reports.

- Allows tracking of unavailable beds that ar due back in operation.

- Provides Veterans Health Administration (VHA) with bed accountability and usage information.

- Provides ad hoc reporting capability.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of the Chief Network Officer (10N)			VISN Support Service Center (10NS)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	14.5 MB	NO	Operations and Logistics	1992-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
DEC ALPHA	VMS	VA FileMan	VAMCs	OI Field Office, Dallas, TX

Capacity Management Database (CMD)

Overview

The Capacity Management Database (CMD) is designed to track computer resource usage of the systems running the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA). Information derived from CMD is used to assess the impact of planned new software products, identify the ramifications of archiving and purging, recognize emerging problems through database analysis, and validate sizing model expectations.

Data for CMD is captured from VistA systems in real time. Accumulated data is processed at each site and the results are transmitted to CMD using MailMan messages. Data can be added to CMD daily, along with the monthly updates provided by the VistA sites.

On a monthly basis, reports are sent to the Office of Information (OI) of the Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) and Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) Information Resources Management (IRM) to allow review of the system's performance and identify future problems (e.g., lack of available disk space). IRM personnel can access the database through the VA's intranet ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ for comparison of their system with other sites.

The users of CMD include the Office of Information (OI), VISN CIOs, and IRM staff.

Features

- Alerts VistA system owners to potential performance problems.

- Provides impact assessment of new VistA products on the system.

- Provides the ability to model future resource needs.

- Allows viewing of capacity information on a local, regional, and national levels.

- Provides fully automated data capture and transmission.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of the Information (19)			System Design and Development (192)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	5.2 GB	YES	Operations and Logistics	1992-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
AXP 1000A	OPEN VMS	VA FileMan	VAMCs	IO Field Office, Albany, NY

Construction Management Information System (CMIS)

Overview

The Construction Management Information System (CMIS) is a management tool to track the progress of active major, minor, lease, enhanced-use, parking, Veterans Health Administration (VHA), National Cemetery Administration (NCA) and Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA) projects. It is used to measure performance and provide information for internal and external use.

Features

- Provides performance measures for the Facilities Management program.

- Tracks construction projects including financial information.

- Stores detailed information on each project including:
  - Project scope
  - Funding information
  - Project highlights
  - Key personnel
  - Contract information
  - Contractors
  - Project scheduling

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Facilities Management (18)			Resource Management Office (182)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	300 MB	NO	Operations and Logistics	1975-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
SOLARIS	UNIX	ORACLE	VACO, VAMCs, FMS	VACO, Washington, DC

Construction Project Application Database

Overview

The Construction Project Application Database is used to submit applications for Minor and NRM (Non-Recurring Maintenance) construction projects within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). A construction project is designated as minor when the cost of the Non-Recurring Maintenance (NRM) project exceeds certain limits.

Annually, participating Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs) send their applications for minor construction projects via MailMan to the San Francisco Office of Information Field Office.

This database is part of the VISN Support Service Center (VSSC) Construction Database system. More information on this database and other construction databases can be found on the VA's Intranet at ▇▇▇▇▇▇▇▇▇▇▇▇▇▇▇▇

Plans are underway to move this database from its current platform to another accessible by the KLFMenu on the VSSC website.

The users of this database are VA Headquarters and the Veterans Integrated Services Networks (VISNs).

Features

- Provides information for developing Facility Operating plans.

- Provides report generation capability.

- Allows for viewing of projects at VAMC, VISN, and national levels.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of the Chief Network Officer (10N)			Chief Network Officer (10N)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	400 MB	NO	Operations and Logistics	1991-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
DEC ALPHA	VMS	VA FileMan	VAMCs	OI Field Office, San Francisco, CA

Construction Project Progress Reporting

Overview

The Construction Project Progress Reporting Database contains monthly progress report data (Form 10-0051) on every active minor and non-recurring maintenance construction project.

Participating Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs) and Outpatient Clinics (OPCs) transmit their construction project data monthly to FORUM via MailMan. The information is then sent to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Central Office Construction databases located in Washington, DC. A copy of this information is sent to the Office of Information Field Office in San Francisco.

This database is part of the VISN Support Service Center (VSSC) Construction Database system. More information on this database and other construction databases can be found on the VA's intranet at ███████████████████████████████████.

Plans are underway to move this database from its current platform to another accessible by the KLF Menu located on the VSSC website.

The users of this database include the Construction Information System (CIS) and the Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs).

Features

- Provides for entry of data from Form 10-0051.

- Provides Monthly Construction Reports. Information includes:
    - schedules
    - progress notes
    - funding information
    - contract information

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of the Chief Network Officer (10N)			Chief Network Officer (10N)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	400 MB	NO	Operations and Logistics	1993-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
DEC ALPHA 1000A	VMS	M	VAMCs	OI Field Office, San Francisco, CA

Contract Administration Management System (CAMS)

Overview

The Contract Administration and Management System (CAMS) is a data management system designed specifically for the VA Office of Facilities Management (FM) for the management of contract and funding data. It provides a means of sorting and tracking data related to major Architect-Engineer and construction contracts such as contract type, project locations, project status, and contract funding.

Features

- Provides an accounting system for the control and recording of contract funds.

- Provides standardized reporting of projects and/or contracts.

- Allows ad hoc reporting for specific projects or contracts.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Facilities Management (18)			Program Management & Planning Office (182)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	50 MB	NO	Operations and Logistics	1992-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
SOLARIS	UNIX	ORACLE	VACO	VACO, Washington, DC

Database Administration (DBA)

Overview

Database Administration (DBA) is a menu of database tables stored on the Veterans Affairs (VA) national electronic mail system FORUM. It is used primarily by Office of Information (OI) personnel and field IRM people involved in maintaining and operating the Veterans Health Information and Systems Technology Architecture (VistA).

Among the tables on the menu are:
- Formal VistA assignments of development domains
- Formal exemptions for class I packages to VHA programming standards and conventions
- Formal VistA Intranet domain definitions
- Formal VistA Integration Agreements (APIs, RPCs, templates, options, table & column references, etc)
- Miscellaneous Operating Policies and Procedures Used Provisionally
- Formal VistA GUI standard guidelines
- Formal VistA List Manager standards

Feature

- Permits OI and other authorized VA personnel to store, update and retrieve a variety of reference documents, guidelines and standards pertaining to the maintenance and operation of VistA.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Information (19)			National VistA Support (193F)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	< 5 MB	NO	Operations and Logistics	1984-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
DEC Alpha	VMS	VA FileMan	OI DBA	OI Field Office, Silver Spring, MD

Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System (DEMPS)

Overview

DEMPS is an emergency preparedness program that employs a database developed to collect specific information on Veterans Health Administration (VHA) medical personnel who have volunteered, and been approved by their Medical Center Director, to be deployed in the event of a disaster or other emergency. The primary focus of DEMPS is to provide personnel to augment Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and other facilities that may have been affected by a disaster. This not only includes direct providers of care, but also ancillary and support personnel such as in engineering, environmental and nutritional services. However, this resource listing can also be used in response to disasters that are covered under the Federal Response Plan (FRP).

When hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and other similar natural or manmade disasters occur, and the State and local resources to handle the response/recovery process are overwhelmed, the State in which the disaster occurs may request Federal assistance. To provide this support a Presidential Disaster Declaration is issued and FRP is activated. Once the damage to the area and needs have been assessed, and it is determined that medical resources are required, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through the United States Public Health Service (USPHS), may task VA to provide some of these resources. Generally, these requests are for medical personnel (nurses, physicians, pharmacists, etc.), pharmaceutical (or other medical) supplies, and/or medical equipment.

The DEMPS is being developed as a web application and will eventually be accessed through the Emergency Management Strategic Healthcare Group (EMSHG) web site ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓. Each facility will have a designated individual to distribute and collect the DEMPS questionnaires that potential volunteers fill out and have approved by their immediate supervisor and health care facility director. This individual will also be responsible for ensuring that the data is entered into the system via the DEMPS web application located on the EMSHG web site. Until the new site has been developed, interim procedures and instructions have been distributed. The DEMPS database will provide a more efficient and faster response capability for finding qualified individuals (preferably within the same Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN)) to meet requirements generated from emergencies internal to VA or in response to tasking requests from FEMA when Federal assistance is required and approved.

Features

- Provides on-line data entry into the DEMPS database.
- Provides various reports for locating personnel by VISN, facility, profession, specialty, etc.
- Provides varying levels of access and security (facility, VISN, national and administrative).
- Provides an accounting of deployed personnel, dates and task orders.
- Reduces the time involved in finding qualified medical personnel to fill deployment positions during emergency activation.
- Provides EMSHG Operations with immediate access to the DEMPS database and capabilities.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Emergency Management Strategic Healthcare Group (104)			Director of Operations (104B4)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
DESIGN/ DEVELOPMENT	N/A	NO	Operations and Logistics	TBD
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
INTEL PLATFORM	Windows NT	SQL SERVER	VAMCs	OI Field Office, Silver Spring, MD

Energy Savings Projects (ESP)

Overview

The Energy Savings Projects (ESP) database tracks the status of projects designed to save energy. Projects only partially funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) are included in this database.

Data for the ESP is manually entered by users via the website maintained by the Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN) Support Service Center (VSSC). The address for this website is ███████████████████████████████████.

Through this website, users enter data on new projects, search for specific projects, and download project information onto their personal computers.

The users of this database include Congress and VA personnel responsible for maintaining information on energy savings projects.

Features

- Provides Web-based Graphic User Interface (GUI) data entry.

- Allows for query of projects on local, regional, or national level.

- Allows downloading of data from website into a spreadsheet.

- Fulfills Congressional reporting mandate.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of the Chief Network Officer (10N)			Network Program Support (10NB)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	330 KB	NO	Operations and Logistics	1998-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	MVS	Flat File	VAMCs, VISNs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Enhancement Request (E3R)

Overview

Enhancement Request (E3R) and National Enhancement Requests were the previous names of databases for what is now commonly called Electronic Error and Enhancement Reporting (E3R). This is a module running on FORUM that offers Veterans Health Administration (VHA) staff a means for recommending enhancements to the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA), previously known as Distributed Hospital Computer Program (DHCP). The E3R package is designed for storing, reporting, and tracking the requests for changes in VistA applications.

Anyone in VHA may propose an enhancement. The individual making the proposal specifies which package (module) in VistA he/she believes needs the enhancement.

The enhancement request is sent to a user group associated with the package. The members of that mail group exchange messages on their view of the enhancement request.
The proposal, along with all of the feedback from the mail group, is sent to the package's development program director for a final decision.

E3R tracks and logs the entire discussion process on these enhancement proposals.

Features

- Provides for submitter to initiate, modify, view or cancel a request.

- Assigns a suspense date and a status category to all submitted E3Rs. The status category informs all users of the request's current state in the processing cycle.

- Generates a mail message containing the text of the request whenever an E3R is generated. The message is sent to the submitter, the package developer and members of the mail group associated with the package.

- Tracks package developer's response to each E3R request. Developer can deny or accept the request, enter comments on it, and refer a request to an arbitrator if he feels the request should not be assigned to a package.

- Permits an arbitrator to enter comments, to reassign the request to the appropriate package, and, along with the package developer, to accept or deny the request.

- Produces several reports available to both users and developers.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Information (19)			National VistA Support (193F)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	5 MB	NO	Operations and Logistics	1987-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
ALPHA 1000	VMS	VA FileMan	VAMCs	OI Field Office, Silver Spring, MD

Foundation Information for Real Property Management (FIRM)

Overview

The Foundation Information for Real Property Management (FIRM) system was developed by the General Services Administration (GSA) to help federal agencies manage their real property assets. It is intended to provide a reporting mechanism for meeting GSA's and the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) reporting requirements relating to real property and space management.

The Veterans Affairs (VA) FIRM database is used to quickly respond to ever increasing real property reporting requests. Information stored consists of space categorized by usage and location.

FIRM is being reengineered to take advantage of current technology and incorporate rapidly evolving user requirements. The redeveloped FIRM will provide project tracking of real property acquisition and disposal, delegations of authority, leases, and GSA-assigned workspace planning information.

Features

- Reports information to federal real property officers for the management of their real property assets.

- Allows ad-hoc reporting on real property and space management.

- Provides monitoring of the life-cycle process, lease management and workspace planning of real property.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Facilities Management (18)			Asset & Enterprise Development Service (181B)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	100 MB	YES	Operations and Logistics	1987-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
SOLARIS	UNIX	ORACLE	VAMCs	VACO, Washington, DC

History Management Information System (HMIS)

Overview

The History Management Information System (HMIS) was designed as a repository for the historical data from the Construction Management Information System (CMIS) database. When permanent action has been completed on a major, minor, lease, enhanced-use parking, VHA, cemetery or regional office project, this data is then transferred from the active database in CMIS to HMIS.

When a major or minor construction project is retired, the information for this project is pulled from the CMIS system and stored in the HMIS system. Ad-hoc reports can be produced on inactive projects form HMIS.

Feature

- Provides central repository for historical information on inactive VA construction projects.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Facilities Management (18)			Resource Management Office (182)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	400 MB	NO	Operations and Logistics	1975-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
SOLARIS	UNIX	ORACLE	VACO, VAMCs, FMS	VACO, Washington, DC

Lease/Project Tracking (LEASE)

Overview

The Lease/Project Tracking (LEASE) database contains information on
lease and land acquisition projects that are handled by Facilities Management. Through a delegation
of leasing authority from General Services Administration (GSA), VA directly leases its space.

Information collected includes type of space, type of lease, proposed space dimensions and budget,
brief description of the project, acquisition milestone dates, and project manager's contact information.
The information is provided and entered in by the responsible project manager.

LEASE was developed by the VA Headquarters Automation Center in collaboration with the Real
Property Management Office to provide on-line access to information concerning VA's direct leasing
projects.

Features

- Provides information for workload and performance measurement.

- Contains project-tracking information about activities related to the acquisition of leased space.

- Provides information for system inquiries, ad-hoc reports, and other reporting requirements.

- Provides information to Congress on ongoing projects of interest.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Facilities Management (18)			Real Property Service (183C)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	2 MB	YES	Operations and Logistics	1992-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
PC	WINDOWS NT	MS ACCESS	VACO	VACO, Washington, DC

National On-Line Information Sharing (NOIS)

Overview

The National On-Line Information Sharing (NOIS) application provides centralized tracking of service requests and problems associated with the daily operation of computer systems within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). NOIS is a Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) package that resides on the FORUM national electronic mail system and is maintained by the National VistA Support (NVS) division of Customer Services within the Office of Information (OI).

Incoming requests and problems are logged in NOIS as trouble tickets by the OI National Help Desk, NVS staff, or can be directly input by customers. NOIS tracks service requests from initiation through problem resolution, and is used for information sharing and dialog by those involved in support, development and management, as well as customers. All VA FORUM users can see any NOIS request. They are not limited to those requests logged by them. In this way, NOIS can be used as a research tool to track problems and problem resolution by package or by site.

NOIS uses either a GUI or List Manager interface for displaying trouble ticket lists and information. Users can customize views and lists by defining their personal defaults. Browse and search options allow viewing of all tickets. Notifications can be sent automatically to users or customers about changes to tickets using MailMan or menu alerts. NOIS information can be extracted for use in PC applications and spreadsheets.

Features

- Provides tracking and resolution of reported problems to National VistA Support.

- Provides tracking for problems that require program changes.

- Allows management to monitor workload for appropriate resource distribution.

- Provides monitoring on bug fixes and future releases.

- Provides documentation for common problems to aid in troubleshooting.

- Provides VHA facilities the capability of logging problems locally.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Information (19)			National VistA Support Division of Customer Services (193F)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	1.6 GB	NO	Operations and Logistics	1993-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
DEC ALPHA	VMS	VA FileMan	VAMCs	OI Field Office, Silver Spring, MD

National Patch Module (NPM)

Overview

The National Patch Module (NPM) is a software package that provides a database for the distributionof software patches and updates for the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA). Options are provided systematic entry and review of patches by developers, review and release of patches by verifiers, and display and distribution of the released verified patches to the users.

Once a problem is found in the VistA software and the solution is identified, a developer enters a patch in the NPM identified by package namespace, version, and a patch number. At this point, the patch entry has a status of "under development" and is accessible only by other developers of the software. When the patch is completed and ready for review, a second developer changes the status to "completed/unverified" and the patch becomes available for review by designated verifiers of the software. After the verifier(s) have checked the patch and determined that it is ready for release, the status is changed to "verified." The patch is automatically distributed and becomes available for users.

Features

- Creates a patch mail message with text and installable routines, which is delivered to all the sites by network mail.

- Allows entry of "associated patches" (those patches that must be verified and installed prior to the current patch).

- Provides flags to:
  − Identify which routines in a patch have previous patches.
  − Hold verification/release of a patch until a certain date.
  − Force sequential verification/release of associated patches.

- Provides numerous reports including:
  − Released patches and summaries.
  − Completed/unverified patches for a selected package.
  − Under development patches for a selected package.

- Provides automatic notification of new verified patches.

- Provides ability to copy information froman existing patch into a new patch.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Information (19)			System Design and Development (192)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	2 MB	NO	Operations and Logistics	1982-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
ALPHA 1000	VMS	VA FileMan	IO Field Offices	OI Field Office, Silver Spring, MD

Plan Library Information and Retrieval System (PLIARS)

Overview

The Plan Library Information and Retrieval System (PLIARS) is an electronic catalogue of microfilmed Contract and As-Built drawings of VA building plans and cemeteries. It is a single flat file list of the more than 500,000 aperture cards stored at the Veterans Affairs Central Office (VACO).

Each record contains an entry for station number (Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) number), date, building number, a code representing the discipline, project number, floor, and wing. Disciplines include architectural, electrical, mechanical, structural, etc. Hard copy of the plans are stored at each VAMC.

The plans are microfilmed at the National Archives and aperture cards are produced for both Contract and As-Built stages of the contract. An original copy of each aperture card is kept at the National Archives, with copies to VACO and the VAMC. The Program Planning and Management Office enters a record into PLIARS for each new card the VACO receives. They are also responsible for maintaining the database.

Primary users of the PLIARS database are contractors hired to do work. In-house technnical staff and the Engineering offices at the VAMC's. Users of PLIARS can request aperture cards for the buildings, disciplines, projects and Medical Centers as needed. Staff pull the aperture cards from the files and make either half or full size blow-ups of the drawings.

Features

- Catalogues over half a million architectural and structural drawing plans for Veterans Affairs dating back to 1925.

- Permits easy identification and locating of aperture cards (microfilm) for these plans stored at the VACO.

- Provides centralized, convenient access to VAMCs plans for use by contractors and others.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Facilities Management (18)			Program Management & Planning Office (182)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	50 MB	NO	Operations and Logistics	1979-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
PC	WINDOWS NT	MS ACCESS	VACO	VACO, Washington, DC

Research and Development Information System (RDIS)

Overview

Research and Development Information System (RDIS) is a software application which handles data collected from Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs) on all VA research projects. It includes project data, funding data, and investigator data from VAMCs. RDIS is also the system of budgetary and project information kept and used by Veterans Affairs Central Office (VACO) personnel to manage the research program.

VA Medical Centers collect and submit the data in an application called Project Management and Information System (PROMISE). That same data is submitted to VACO and becomes a component of RDIS. PROMISE collects data from over 150 VA facilities (including 75 VAMCs) and tracks the requests made by individual researchers for funding for various proposed research projects.

Requests are reviewed by research boards at each VAMC, and for smaller projects, funds are sometimes available at the discretion of the local VAMC research board to be allocated without receiving permission from the Veterans Affairs Central Office (VACO). All project requests are first approved by the Research and Development Committee and relevant R&D Subcommittees (Human Studies, Animal Use, and/or Biosafety) at each VAMC. All requests that do not require centralized funding do not require approval from VACO, but are still approved locally.

Basic information on research project approved by the VAMC R&D committee is transmitted to the RDIS, which tracks the life cycle of these requests. The RDIS stores information on the person requesting the research funds, the amount requested, and an abstract of the proposed research.

When the local research committees approve projects requests, all projects are entered in RDIS funding allocations from VACO, and the basic information on the research project is transmitted to the RDIS, which tracks the life cycle of these requests.

Some functionality in RDIS has been recently moved to RAFT which is a newer Visual Basic application that accesses the same database.

Features

- Provides tracking information for various proposed researches projects.

- Provides budgetary and project information for VAHQ personnel.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Research & Development (12)			Office of Research & Development (12B)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	800 MB	NO	Operations and Logistics	1993-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
PC	Windows NT	MS SQL Server	VAMCs	VACO, Washington, DC

Resident Engineer Management System 2000 (REMS2000)

Overview

Resident Engineer Management System 2000 (REMS2000) allows Resident Engineers to manage and administer construction project contracts. The database is used to create reports that facilitate the execution and completion of these contracts. Local installations of the software are maintained at each major VHA resident/engineer construction site, currently numbering around 40. Information is sent weekly or bi-weekly from each site to the central REMS2000 database located at the Veterans Affairs Central Office (VACO) in Washington, DC.

REMS2000 replaced the older Resident Engineer Management System (REMS) during 1999. This database is used to manage and administer construction projects at each resident/engineer project site.

REMS2000 runs on a commercial application called ViaNovus, formerly Paragon. It is planned to make the system web-based and accessible on-line as soon as possible.

Stored information includes:
- contract modifications
- product submittals
- architect/engineer site visits
- testing lab funding
- contract funding
- government furnished equipment
- contract information requests
- costs
- description of the project under construction, and
- inspection details

Features

- Provides scheduling for construction projects.
- Supports budget reporting and tracking by specific construction project.
- Supports contract tracking by specific construction project.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Facilities Management (18)			Resource Management Office (182A)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	100 MB	NO	Operations and Logistics	1999-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
ES Systems with NT	Windows NT	Foxpro	VAMCs	VACO, Washington, DC

Site Implementation Tracking

Overview

The Site Implementation Tracking database is a module on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national electronic mail system FORUM that is alerted when Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs) sites install a new version of a Veterans Health Information and Systems Technology Architecture (VistA) module or package.

It also tracks site specific demographic information, such as director of the Medical Center, Chief of Staff, Security Officer, and Chief of Information Resource Management (IRM).

Features

- Tracks when VAMCs install new versions of VistA packages and patches.

- Maintains site specific demographic information on VAMCs.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Information (19)			Customer Services (193)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	5.6 MB	NO	Operations and Logistics	1984-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
DEC ALPHA	VMS	VA FileMan	VAMCs	OI Field Office, Silver Spring, MD

Universal Product Number (UPN)

Overview

The Universal Product Number (UPN) is used to uniquely identify products used in the supply chain. The UPN is placed as bar code symbols on products to enable users of the products to readily identify the product's characteristics. This is accomplished by cross referencing the UPN identifier derived from the bar code symbols to a database of product information. The focus of VA's effort are on capturing the UPN information for Medical and Surgical products utilized by the VA medical facilities.

Efforts are underway to establish a UPN repository of the Medical and Surgical products frequently used by the VA medical facilities. The repository would include the UPN identifier and product characteristics - manufacturer, packaging, etc.

Initial efforts have centered around the capturing of UPN, VistA/IFCAP Item Master file, and product data at pilot sites. The data captured through the use of bar code scanners and IFCAP routines is sent via MailMan to the Austin Automation Center where it is collected for future reference.

Features

- Provides information regarding Medical and Surgical products used by the VA medical facilities.

- Information on:
  - UPN identifier
  - Manufacturer information
  - Product description
  - Product identifiers - stock numbers, etc
  - Packaging information - unit of measure, etc
  - Miscellaneous date and control information.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Acquisition and Material Management (90)			Acquisition and Material Management (90B)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
DESIGN/ DEVELOPMENT	N/A	NO	Operations and Logistics Databases	Design
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	Windows NT	MUMPS, SAS, SQL	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

VA/DoD Sharing

Overview

The VA/DoD Sharing Database was originally developed to provide the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the Department of Defense (DoD) software for recording, tracking, and compiling reports from the information generated by joint VHA and DoD activities.

Activities included the creation of formal agreements between VHA and DoD sites that were sharing resources in some manner. The original system resided on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA's) FORUM and was accessible to anyone who could access FORUM. It was determined that the legacy system could not respond to the changing needs of its users and those doing the maintenance.

The database was converted from a character-based terminal/host system into an SQL relational database. Security features were added requiring users to login before gaining access to the information. The database was migrated from FORUM to a web-based product available on the VHA Intranet.

The new system permits flexible, consistent use of the data across the enterprise and allows the Sharing and Purchasing Office (175) to enter and manage information on more than 1,023 sharing agreements. These agreements enable sharing of over 9,317 health services between VHA and DoD medical facilities. The system is accessible by VHA personnel at facilities with Intranet access and is available to DoD users as word documents transmitted by e-mail.

Features

- Allows Entering/Editing/Copying of new, revised, and/or amended sharing agreements and TRICARE contracts.

- Ensures completion of data validation before transmission to the database.

- Enables VHA to generate a wide variety of reports including:
  - All Active Agreements
  - Expired Agreements
  - Agreements by VHA Facility or Military Service
  - Count of Agreements sorted by Health Services, VISN, Military Organization, or Care Provider.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Finance (17)			Sharing and Purchasing Office (175)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	200 MB	NO	Operations and Logistics	1999-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
Dell 2300	Windows NT	MS SQL Server	VACO	VACO, Washington, DC

VA Station Tracking (VistA)

Overview

The purpose of the VA Station Tracking database is two-fold. It will provide a single source for official counts of VHA service sites. These are needed for correspondence to Congress, news organizations, budget submissions and stakeholders. It will also provide a basis for historic changes to site indentifiers. This information is provided by each Network in coordination with the VHA Chief Network Office (10N) and the VA Information Resource Office (045A4) to the VHA Planning Systems Support Group.

Features

- Provides Web-based access to current VHA service sites both operational and planned.

- An official accounting of the types of sites nationally and by Network.

- Access to locations of types of services by VISN or by state.

- Provides mailing and street addresses along with telephone numbers.

- Provides Web-accessible canned reports (PDF format).

- Enables each site to be geographically mapped for determination of impact upon service areas and access to health care.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Policy and Planning (105)			Planning Systems Support Group (105D)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
DESIGN/ DEVELOPMENT	5 MB	NO	Operations and Logistics Databases	2000-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
PC	Windows NT	MS SQL/ DELPHI	VA Program Offices, Chief Network Offices	Planning Systems Support Group, VAMC, Gainesville, FL

Organizational Management Databases

Community Nursing Home (CNH)

Overview

The Community Nursing Home (CNH) database contains a list of all Community Nursing Home facilities under local contract to Veterans Health Administration (VHA). CNH facilities are not run by the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). They are private or public facilities licensed by the state in which they provide the patient services.

Daily, all VA Medical Centers (VAMC) who have a contract with a CNH enter information about the CNH into the Fee Basis module of the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA). This information is sent via MailMan to the Austin Automation Center (AAC) where it is collected in a queue.

Batch jobs are processed against the CNH queue the first and second month of each quarter. The first batch proces provides VAMC's with a list of those records not passing edit criteria and notification to those stations that failed to transmit CNH data to the AAC. The second batch process provides VAMC's with a list of records that fail the edit process and produces quarterly CNH reports.

Quarterly reports are sent to the CNHs, VAMCs, Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs), Geriatrics & Extended Care Strategic Healthcare Group, and VA Central Office (VACO).

Features

- Provides address listing of all CNHs under local contract.

- Allows for the collection of CNH information on:
    - Per diem rate
    - Number of beds and veteran population
    - Date of CNH's last assessment
    - Whether CNH is Medicare/Medicaid certified
    - Accreditation and inspection status

- Report provide the following:
    - Workload estimates
    - Price ranges for the cost of different levels of care

- Error checking of incoming data.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Patient Care Services (11)			Geriatrics & Extended Care Strategic Healthcare Group (114)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	200 KB	NO	Organizational Management	1978-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	MVS	Flat File	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Community Residential Care Report

Overview

The Community Residential Care Report is a listing of all facilities approved for care by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). These facilities are privately run operations not affiliated with the VA. They provide room, board, supervision, and other non-medical care to veteran patients who cannot care for themselves but do not require the services of a VA Medical Center (VAMC).

Information about these facilities is entered into the Fee Basis module of the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) by every VAMC that has an agreement with a facility. This information is sent via MailMan to the Austin Automation Center (AAC) where it is collected in a queue.

A quarterly batch process is run on the queue. VAMCs that have sent invalid data or VAMCs that are aligned with residential care facilities and did not send data are notified. Valid data is processed and used to update the database.

Quarterly reports are sent to VAMCs, Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs), Geriatrics & Extended Care Strategic Healthcare Group, VA Central Office (VACO), and researchers interested in residential care information.

Features

- Provides addresses of residential care facilities approved for care by the VA.

- Allows for collection of residential facilities information on:
    - Date of last assessment
    - State licensing
    - Veteran population

- Report information provides:
    - Cost
    - Workload / Number of days of care per veteran

- Error checking of incoming data.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Patient Care Services (11)			Geriatrics & Extended Care Strategic Healthcare Group (114)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	50 KB	NO	Organizational Management	1982-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	MVS	Flat File	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Decision Support System (DSS)

Overview

The VHA Decision Support System (DSS) is an executive information system that can compute the costs of treating individual patients and providing specific services. DSS also provides other financial and clinical corporate data for management and quality improvement purposes as well as tools to conduct clinical studies on groups of patients, etc. DSS is an Eclipsys, Inc. commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) application that has been customized for VHA.

DSS is a secondary database; i.e., all input or feeder information for DSS originated in other VA systems.

Features

- CCA M204 database resides at the AAC.
- DSS is Eclipsys COTS application.
- Input (feeder) data for DSS comes from other VA systems, including but not limited to:
    - PAID; FMS; NPCD; DDC
- Extracts are provided from many VistA software packages:
    - Audiology and Speech Pathology (Quasar)
    - Clinic No-shows
    - Dental
    - Event Capture
    - Inpatient Medications
    - Laboratory
    - Outpatient Pharmacy
    - Patient Information Management System (ADT and Scheduling Modules)
    - Physical Movement
    - Radiology
    - Surgery
    - Treating Speciality
- DSS uses a roll and scroll format that allows users to perform the various functions by selecting the appropriate menu options. Uses VA MailMan to transmit data to commercial software resident at the AAC.
- VistA data is created and managed via extract routines, intermediate files, audit reports, transmission, and purge routines. Each VAMC has a DSS server to access the database and to manage data that is downloaded. A Graphic User Interface is available for data presentation.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Finance (17)			DSS Technical Support Office (196)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	4+ TB	NO	Organizational Management	1991-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	OS390	M204 Database	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Dental Activity System (DAS)

Overview

The Dental Activity System (DAS) is an automated health care application designed to capture critical data about the operations of Veterans affairs (VA) dental services. Information gathered for each patient encounter is linked and includes date, setting, patient Social Security Number (SSN), provider, and treatment services rendered.

Within the DAS, productivity is measured using a relative value unit called the Composite Time Value (CTV).

The DAS interfaces directly with other management information systems and provides data for statistical reporting purposes. Various management reports are generated that evaluate dental activity workload. DAS reports are produced on a monthly and quarterly basis.

DAS is written in Cobol with inputs from Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) programs.

DAS primary users are VA Headquarters, Dental Service Chiefs, and VISN Managers.

Features

- Provides an inpatient summary listing detailing data such as admissions/examinations, diagnostic, preventative and treatment activities, and staff resources utilized.

- Provides an outpatient summary listing by detailing data such as patient visits, diagnostic, preventative and treatment activities, administrative information, and staff resources utilized.

- Provides station, VISN, and nation-wide summary reporting.

- Provides utilization data including provider productivity, workload estimates, quantity and type of procedures or services delivered, and some non-clinical information such as days worked and fee-basis information.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Patient Care Services (11)			Primary & Ambulatory Care Strategic Healthcare Group, Office of Dentistry (112D)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	229.1 MB	NO	Organizational Management	1985-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	MVS	Flat File	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Drug Accountability

Overview

The Drug Accountability database is a database that collects information on medication dispensed to both inpatient and outpatient veterans who receive care from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Information for the Drug Accountability database is extracted from a number of files found within the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) environment.

Monthly, the extracted information is sent via MailMan messages from all Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs) to the VA Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) office in Hines, Illinois. At Hines, quality assurance procedures are performed on the data and local pharmaceutical names are converted to common names before the information is entered into the Drug Accountability database.

The users of this database include the PBM, VAMCs, the Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs), and the VA Research community.

Features

- Provides a national database containing information on drug dispensing at VAMCs.

- Provides reporting at local, regional, and national levels for VAMCs and VISNs.

- Provides monthly, quarterly, and annual reports to the VAMCs and VISNs.

- Provides the translation of local pharmaceutical names to common names.

- Provides confirmation to VAMCs that MailMan messages have been received successfully by the Hines facility.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Patient Care Services (11)			Pharmacy Benefits Management Strategic Healthcare Group (119)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	120 GB	NO	Organizational Management	1994-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
Dell 6300	Windows NT	Foxpro	VAMCs	VAMC, Hines, IL

External Review Management Information System (ERMIS)

Overview

The External Review Management Information System (ERMIS) tracks reports and recommendations from the Office of Inspector General (IG), the General Accounting Office (GAO), and other external review organizations. ERMIS contains 5 main components: Joint Commission for the Accreditation of the Health Care Organization (JCAHO), IG, GAO, VSO (Veterans Service Organization), and other survey organizations.

All IG, GAO, and Medical Inspector (MI) program report recommendations, action plans, status reports, and anticipated completion dates are entered and tracked by Veterans Affairs Central Office (VACO 105E). Information including actions and outcomes can be transmitted electronically to oversight organizations.

Features

- Provides review management information pertinent to inspections conducted by the following survey organizations: JCAHO, IG, GAO, VSO, and others.

- Provides service-level worksheets for recommended action plans.

- Provides a tracking mechanism for all other reviewing bodies.

- Provides communication between the site, region, and VACO on all action plans.

- Provides the following standardized reports in addition to an ad hoc reporting mechanism:
  - Recommendation & Action Plans Report by Service
  - Delinquent Report
  - Audit Reports Unresolved Over Six Months
  - Unimplemented Recommendations for One Year

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Policy and Planning (105)			Management Review & Administration Service (105E)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	8.43 MB	NO	Organizational Management	1987-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
DEC ALPHA	WINDOWS 95	MS ACCESS	VACO	OI Field Office, Silver Spring, MD

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)

Overview

The Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) database is a storage and retrieval facility for all Material Safety Data Sheets pertaining to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Mandated by Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), MSDS must be produced and made available by every chemical manufacturer for every chemical they make.

The information on these sheets includes the chemical's ingredients, properties, guidelines for proper storage and handling, disposal information, and first-aid instructions in case of a spill or accidental contact.

All VA facilities that have chemicals on their premises are required to keep MSDS in a binder placed in a service area that provides quick access to important chemical information for emergencies.

Information for the MSDS system comes from the chemical manufacturers, VA facilities, and from subscription services who offer MSDS details. New information is added to the system daily.

When MSDS have been in the system over two years, the manufacturers are contacted to determine if any information has changed. All MSDS are retained for a thirty-year period from their date of issue.

The users of this database include the Safety Office of each VA facility and the Industrial Hygienist (IH) from each Safety Office.

Features

- Provides users access MSDS database via phone dial-in or through the World Wide Web.

- Provides copies of material safety data sheets via fax machine.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
National Engineering Service Center (138F)			National Engineering Service Center (138F)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	45 GB	NO	Organizational Management	1989-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
Compaq Proliant 6400R & Compaq RA4000 RAID Drives	Windows NT	ORACLE	Drug and Chemical Manufacturers	National Engineering Service Center, St. Louis, MO

National Laboratory Workload & Laboratory Management Index Program (NMIP)

Overview

Effective management of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Service (P&LMS) laboratories requires indicators capable of demonstrating each individual laboratory's productivity and efficiency. Local sites require the capability to determine in real time, the effects of any procedural or policy changes relating to productivity and efficiency. Data collected by each individual Medical Center is compiled on a national level at the Austin Automation Center (AAC) for P&LMS Central Office utilization and for comparisons with private sector laboratories.

Each local Medical Center has the capability to independently monitor laboratory trends and make appropriate decisions. A detailed view of workload data is provided to support a variety of management and clinical requirements and needs. Measurements of productivity and efficiency data are capable of providing Medical Center to Medical Center comparisons. In addition, workload data is suitable for comparison to private sector participants of the College American Pathologist's (CAP) and Laboratory management Index Program (LMIP). The National Laboratory Workload & Laboratory Management Index Program has been selected as the efficiency and productivity logic model. VistA Laboratory Workload & Laboratory Management Index Program report replaces the Automated Management Information System (AMIS) segment used in the past.

Each local site identifies the reportable units based on Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and Veterans Affairs (VA) guidelines. Reportable units are extracted by laboratory software and are transmitted to the AAC. The transmitted data is compiled and stored in the National Laboratory Workload & Laboratory Management Index Program database. This database supports P&LMS Headquarters and Veterans Integrated Service Network director's office.

Feature

- Provides Medical Center to Medical Center workload comparisons capabilities. Provides capability for each local Medical Center to monitor laboratory trends for decision making. Provides a detailed view of workload data to support a variety of management and clinical requirements and needs.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Patient Care Services (11)			Diagnostic Services Strategic Healthcare Group (115)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	900 GB	NO	Organizational Management	1996-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	OS390	Flat File	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Nuclear Medicine National HQ System

Overview

The Nuclear Medicine National HQ System database is a series of MS Excel spreadsheets consisting of information from all Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs) performing or contracting nuclear medicine services in Veterans Affairs medical facilities.

The Medical Centers are required to complete questionnaires annually. The information is then manually entered into the spreadsheets. Included are:

- Distribution and cost of in-house Veterans Affairs (VA) - contract Physician Services, whether contracted services are made via sharing agreement (with another VA medical facility or other government medical providers) or with private providers. Cost of contracted services is tracked annually for comparisons of cost effectiveness. Provision of Radioimmunoassay Services and the cost for the current fiscal year.
- Organizational structure of services. Updated changes in key imaging service personnel (chiefs, chief technicians, radiation safety officers).
- Workload data on the number and type of studies (scans) performed, including Medicare Weighted Work Units (WWUs). (WWUs are a workload measure calculated as the product of a study's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code, which consists of total work costs (the cost of physician medical expertise and time), and total practice costs (the costs of running a practice, such as equipment, supplies, salaries, utilities etc). Medicare combines WWUs together with one other parameter to derive Medicare Relative Value Units (RVUs), a workload measure widely used in the health care industry.)
- A detailed Full-Time Equivalent Employee (FTEE) grid, and staffing distributions of FTEEs across nuclear medicine services. Budget and cost data by type (radiopharmaceuticals, supplies, education, other expenses). Revolving documentation of all major VA-owned gamma cameras (by type) and computer systems, their specifications and ages. Types of educational training/certification programs available at VA sites.
- Ongoing funded research projects by Nuclear Medicine (NM) staff, identified by source of funding and research purpose. Academic achievements by NM staff, including published books/chapters, journals and abstracts. Information from polling field sites re: relevant issues and programs Headquarters needs to address. Results of a Congressionally mandated contracted quality assessment exercise, also known as a Proficiency study. Study results are analyzed for comparison within VA facilities (for example by mission or size), and against participating private sector health care groups.

The database will be moved from MS Excel to an MS Access database platform in the near future, with output still presented in the form of Excel graphs.

Features

- Provides an annual report summarizing the information received from all the VAMCs submitting questionnaires. The bulk of the report is a presentation of the data compiled from the questionnaires in the form of graphs on WWUs, quality studies, staffing, and other parameters.
- Provides reporting on demand in response to requests for information from users around the country.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Patient Care Services (11)			National Headquarters Nuclear Medicine (115B)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	13 MB	YES	Organizational Management	1992-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
DELL	WINDOWS NT	MS ACCESS	VAMCs	VAMC, Ann Arbor. MI

Surgery Risk Assessment

Overview

The Surgery Risk Assessment (SRA) database is part of the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP). This database contains assessments of selected surgical operations performed at Veteran Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs).

Addition to the SRA database requires that the surgery is Major (as defined by the type of anesthesia used), it must not be cardiac related, and it may not be concurrent with another surgery. Frequently performed other types of surgeries may also be excluded. Nurse reviewers at VAMCs gather the information from surgical data located in the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) environment. Information is also collected from pre- and post-operative charts and from interviews with patients. This information is entered into VISTA and transmitted daily by a batch process to the Hines Office of Information Field Office.

While the database has been in operation since 1991, the system only contains data for the current fiscal year. The data from previous fiscal years is archived if later retrieval is needed.

Valid transmissions are sent to the Hines VA Cooperative Studies Program Coordinating Center (CSPCC) to be included for their use. Information from non-assessed surgeries is transmitted from the VAMCs to the Hines OI Field Office quarterly. This is also passed along to CCPCC.

The users of this database include the NSQIP Executive Committee, the CCPCC, and the Chiefs of Surgery at all VAMCs.

Features

- Provides error checking of transmissions from VAMCs to ensure data quality.

- Provides annual reports evaluating VAMCs surgical performance.

- Provides information for trend analysis by the NSQIP Executive Committee for VAMC's Chiefs of Surgery.

- Provides historical risk assessment information to help researchers improve the quality of surgical procedures.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
NSQIP Executive Committee (UNK1)			Birmingham OI Field Office (192-2C)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	90-290 MB	NO	Organizational Management	1991-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
ALPHA	VMS	VA FileMan	VAMCs	OI Field Office, Hines, IL

VHA Work Measurement (VWM)

Overview

The VHA Work Measurement (VWM) database is an interim solution for collection of workload data which would not be available on a national level after completion of the Automated Management Information System (AMIS) Elimination project.

In the past, the majority of workload information collected from the Medical Centers had been transmitted through local use of the VistA Generic Code Sheet application for storage and manipulation by the AMIS system at the Austin Automation Center.

In October 1999, after several years of data analysis and workload measurement planning, the AMIS system was shut down. The majority of the 601 AMIS segments were either discontinued or were modified to use existing data collected in other corporate databases for other national programs. These programs include the National Performance Data Resource Center (NPDRC), the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) Support Service Center (VSSC), the Allocation Resource Center (ARC), the Office of Policy and Planning, as well as others who are developing the tools to support today's management information needs.

As the Office of Information (OI) continues to develop and enhance the underlying database resources for these offices, and they are able to support the additional data needs at a national level, the VHA Work Measurement database will be discontinued.

Features

- Monthly Input Cycle – Data can be transmitted during the last three workdays of the month and the first ten workdays of the new month. The system will accept current year and prior year data only for VWM Segments. All prior year data must be submitted in prior year format with the X modifier and year code 1.
- Quarterly Input Cycle – Stations can submit data the last three workdays of the month through the 13th workday of the new month.
- Data Available via Monthly Sequential Files – Data from the VWM Segments will be stored monthly in the same format on the same files (RMTPRD.AMS.ACCESS.DMS.MMMYY).
- Data Available via PC FRS Queries – An ORACLE Database has been set up for queries on segments stored on the VWM System.
- FTE Data from PAID is stored and updated on a biweekly cycle on the PC FRS ORACLE Database.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Information (19)			Information Resource Management (72)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	96.6 MB	NO	Organizational Management	1999-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	OS390	VSAM	VHA	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Work Group Database

Overview

The Work Group Database is designed to collect and report information relating to all national-level initiative work groups, task forces, and committees. Information about Work Group membership and outcomes is also tracked by this database.

Users access the database from the VISN Support Service Center (VSSC) Web site. Users are provided search and view facilities. Advanced privileges give certain users the ability to add new listings, edit existing listings, and upload documentation. More information on this database can be found at the following website: ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮. Work Group Data Base reporting options can be found on the left hand side of the page under Reports.

The Work Group Chairperson or their designee enters information into the system through the Web site. The Chairperson or their designee updates the database when information is entered (i.e. when the Work Group is created, when major milestones are met, and when the work is completed).

The users of this database include national-level initiative work groups and other parties interested in following the progress of work groups including Networks and facilities.

Features

- Provides viewing or download of Group documentation including charge letters and deliverables.

- Provides search capability to users for query of the database by Work Group name, membership, and/or topic.

- Provides graphical user interface (GUI) for users to enter information on-line through on VSSC Web site.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of the Chief Network Officer (10N)			VISN Support Service Center (10NS)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	< 10 MB	NO	Organizational Management	1999-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	Windows NT	SAS	VACO	VSSC, Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Addiction Severity Index (ASI)

Overview

The Addiction Severity Index (ASI) records and stores information about veterans with substance abuse problems. Substance abuse patients are administered a standard questionnaire of approximately 200 questions. Answers are recorded by a clinician in the ASI database running at the local Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC).

Questions deal directly with substance abuse, including:
- which substances are or have been used.
- the impact of substance abuse on their lives and on their families.
- whether the patient has had legal problems.
- if the patient has had problems with employment because of substance abuse.

Information is transmitted weekly from the local VAMC to the ASI database operated by the Mental Health Strategic Health Group located at the Pittsburgh VAMC.

The information stored in the ASI is considered highly sensitive and is sent to the Performance Evaluation Resource Center (PERC) located in Palo Alto, CA. The PERC uses the information to evaluate the performance of individual programs in the field.

Formerly, information on substance abuse patients was stored in the same database as post traumatic stress disorder information (National Mental Health Database System). Starting in 1997, all of this information is stored in the ASI.

Features

- Provides centralized record keeping on substance abuse patients using VA medical facilities.

- Provides statistical information by Medical Center (e.g., treatment outcomes measurements).

- Provides reports to PERC for evaluation of substance abuse patient care performance at each of the VAMCs.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Patient Care Services (11)			Mental Health Strategic Health Group (116A)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	900 MB	YES	Patient	1996-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
Compaq File Server	UNIX	ORACLE	VAMCs	Pittsburgh, PA

Agent Orange (AOR)

Overview

The Agent Orange Registry (AOR) is a dataset of veterans who have had military service in the Repulbic of Vietnam between 1962 and 1975 or had military service in Korea during 1968 or 1969, and had AOR examination at a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facility. This registry program was set up to address the concerns of Vietnam veterans about the possible long-term health consequences of exposure to herbicides specifically Agent Orange. Agent Orange was a herbicide, or defoliant, which was used in Republic of Vietnam and Korea to kill unwanted plant life and to remove leaves from trees which provided cover for the enemy. Agent Orange was a mixture of chemicals containing equal amounts of two active ingredients, 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. The name, "Agent Orange," came from the orange stripe on the 55-gallon drums in which it was stored. Other herbicides, including Agent White and Agent Blue, were also used in Vietnam to a much lesser extent.

This centralized registry is maintained at the Austin Automation Center (AAC). Data from code sheets received from VA facilities are entered into a registry dataset via a batch system written in Common Business Oriented Language (COBOL). This registry enables the VA to keep veterans informed on research findings or new compensation policies for Vietnam veterans through periodic newsletters. It provides a mechanism to catalogue prominent symptoms, reproductive health, diagnoses and to communicate with Vietnam and Korea veterans. The voluntary, self-selected nature of the registry makes it valuable for health surveillance; however, it is not designed or intended to be a research tool and therefore, the results cannot be generalized to represent all Vietnam or Korea veterans' illnesses.

The AOR is written in COBOL and processed twice a month and quarterly. The primary users are the Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards, Environmental Agents Service, and Environmental Epidemiology Service. The dataset is used for health surveillance and outreach activities.

Features

- Provides a registry for Vietnam and Korea veterans who have been examined at a VA medical facility, tracking patient demographics, medical diagnosis and related medical data of Vietnam and Korea veterans with possible herbicide exposure.
- Provides a method to communicate with these veterans through periodic newsletters.
- Provides information that may assist in generating hypotheses for future research studies.
- Provides on-line menu for editing and simple lookup to Austin Automation Center (AAC) by the VA Central Office. Provides report generation capability.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Public Health & Environmental Hazards (13)			Environmental Agents Service (131)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	300 MB	YES	Patient	1978-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	OS390	Flat File	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Continuous Improvement in Cardiac Surgery Program

Overview

The Continuous Improvement in Cardiac Surgery Program (CICSP) database is a research-derived database containing information on all patients who undergo cardiac surgery at a Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) within the Veterans Affairs Cardiac Surgery Program. The primary purpose of this database is to improve the quality of care for veterans receiving cardiac surgery by providing information to care provider teams for self assessment and quality improvement purposes.

Data for the CICSP is entered by nurse data managers using the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) at the VAMCs where the cardiac surgery was performed.

Information is transmitted monthly from the VAMCs to the CICSP database in Denver. The information is then presented to the Cardiac Surgery Consultants Committee at their semi-annual meetings for quality review and research oriented discussion. Summary data from the CICSP is also sent to the Center for Cooperative Studies and Health Services (CCSHS) and used in their risk analysis and reporting.

The users of this database include the Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs), VAMCs that perform the cardiac surgeries, CCSHS, and the Cardiac Surgery Consultants Committee.

Features

- Provides for data entry of cardiac surgery risk assessment and outcome analysis.

- Allows risk analysis to be performed on all cardiac surgery programs within the VHA.

- Demographic data is derived from the administrative packages and operative and outcome data from the surgical package.

- Provides information required to focus and direct internal quality improvement efforts and national cardiac surgery policy initiatives.

- Provides reports to VISN Directors and Directors of Surgery at participating VAMCs indicating their performance relative to other VISNs and VAMCs.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Cardiac Surgery Consultant Committee (112R)			Cardiac Research (12R)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	71.5 MB	NO	Patient	1987-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
PC LAN	Windows NT	Dataease	VAMCs	VAMC, Denver, CO

Eastern Pacemaker Surveillance Center Database

Overview

The Eastern Pacemaker Surveillance Center Database supports the Eastern Pacemaker Surveillance Center (EPSC) staff in its function of monitoring some 8,000 Veterans Health Administration (VHA) patients who have implanted pacemakers. The database stores medically-useful information about the patients and their pacemaker test results in order to highlight serial changes, which determine whether the pacemaker is still functioning normally, or whether the patient requires further intervention.

The EPSC staff performs regular telephonic checkups, in conjunction with less frequent in-hospital clinic checkups, to determine when pacemakers need to be replaced. Patients are scheduled and called by the Pacemaker Surveillance Center, and have their electrocardiogram recorded and analyzed over the phone, using wires attached to their fingers and a VHA-supplied transmitter. The Pacemaker Center also provides in-hospital clinic checkups for local Washington DC VHA pacemaker patients. All information obtained during the checkups is recorded in the Eastern Pacemaker Surveillance Center Database.

The database contains records of all pacemaker patients being monitored by VHA facilities east of the Mississippi and who are not being monitored directly by their respective VA Medical Centers. The VHA Department of Medical Services encourages local VHA Medical Centers to refer their patients for pacemaker follow-up monitoring to either the Eastern Surveillance Center or to the counterpart Western Surveillance Center in San Francisco, whichever is geographically appropriate. However, referral is optional. The database also maintains a registry of all VHA patients, living and deceased, who have had pacemakers implanted at, or who have been monitored by, VHA facilities. The EPSC receives information for the registry directly from the Medical Centers for patients that it does not monitored, totally over 50,000 as of 1999.

Feature

- Supports the EPSC's regularly scheduled medical checkup program for pacemaker patients throughout the Eastern half of the United States, via telephone (or in-hospital clinic checkups for local Washington DC area VHA pacemaker patients). Provides a central registry of all information relevant to the installation, model, and functioning of pacemakers implanted in VHA patients. Provides reports annually for VHA Central Office and referring VHA Medical Centers, of patients' implant histories. Provides reports as needed to VHA Central Office and referring VHA Medical Centers, of VHA patients involved in pacemaker and lead recalls or advisories.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Patient Care Services (11)			Medical Services, Department of Cardilogy (11A)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	100 MB	YES	Patient	1982-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
DEC ALPHA	Windows NT	VA FileMan	VAMCs	VAMC, Washington, DC

Emerging Pathogens Initiative (EPI)

Overview

The Emerging Pathogens Initiative (EPI) database contains Emerging Pathogens information from the local Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs). The EPI software package allows the Department of Veterans Affairs to track Emerging Pathogens on the national level without additional data entry at the local level. The results from aggregation of data can be shared with the appropriate public health authorities including non-VA and the private health care sector allowing national planning, formulation of intervention strategies, and resource allocations.

EPI is designed to automatically collect data on emerging diseases for Veterans Affairs Central Office (VACO) to analyze. The data is sent to the Austin Automation Center (AAC) from all VAMCs for initial processing and combination with related workload data. VACO data retrieval and analysis is then carried out.

The AAC creates two file structures both in Statistical Analysis System (SAS) file format, which are used as a source of data for the VAHQ Infectious Diseases Program Office. These files are manipulated and used for analysis and reporting by the Infectious Diseases Program Office.

Emerging Pathogens (as characterized by VACO) act as triggers for data acquisition activities in the automated program. The system retrieves relevant, predetermined, patient-specific information in the form of an Health Level Seven (HL7) message, and is transmitted to the central data repository at the AAC. Once at that location, the data is converted to a SAS data set for analysis by the VACO Infectious Diseases Program Office.

Monthly EPI data is transmitted to the AAC. Before data transmission an Emerging Pathogens Verification Report is produced for the local sites to review, verify, and make corrections as needed. After data transmission to the AAC it is added to the National Database.

Features

- Provides data on emerging pathogens to VA headquarters without additional local data entry.

- Provides extracts with specific Emerging Pathogen data.

- Provides national SAS data sets for the Infectious Disease Program.

- Provides SAS Reporting capabilities for appropriate use and distribution.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Patient Care Services (11)			Accute Care, Medical Service (111)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	1.0 GB	NO	Patient	1998-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	OS390	Flat File	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Former Prisoner of War Statistical Tracking System

Overview

The Former Prisoner of War (POW) Statistical Tracking System database is a registry designed to comply with Public Law 97-37, the "Former Prisoner of War Benefits Act of 1981".

This database contains information about the Medical Evaluation Program for ex-POWs at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities. The program provides a complete medical and psychiatric evaluation of ex-POWs. Only ex-POWs who volunteer to participate in the program are included in this registry.

Health examinations are given to ex-POWs at VA facilities. The findings are then recorded on a special coding sheet, VA Form 10-0048a. Quarterly, these code sheets are sent to the Austin Automation Center (AAC), where they are manually keyed into the database.

The main users of this registry are:
- The Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War
- Congress
- National Academy of Sciences
- Researchers
- The National Center for Veteran Analysis and Statistics

Features

- Provides registry of ex-POWs who received a protocol medical examination at VA facilities.

- Provides data for research studies.

- Provides data for reports to Congress and to the Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War.

- Provides data for evaluating the effectiveness of programs concerning ex-POWs as mandated by Public Law 97-37.

- Includes information on health care provided and compensation received by ex-POWs.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Patient Care Services (11)			Social Work Service (110B)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	2.46 MB	YES	Patient	1984-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	MVS	Flat File	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Functional Status and Outcome Database (VistA)

Overview

The Functional Status and Outcome Database (VistA) is designed to capture and track information about rehabilitative care throughout the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). VistA supports the entry of information from acute and sub-acute inpatient rehabilitation programs, as well as a broad range of outpatient rehabilitation programs. Outcome-based information including length of stay and cost is also tracked.

Participating VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) enter information into VistA on-line through a software program called VA FIMware. Users throughout the VA can access stored VistA data through VA FIMware.

Quarterly, VistA data is written to tape and sent to a database in Buffalo, New York. This database is maintained by Uniform Data System for Medical Rehabilitation (UDSmr) and contains a national roll-up of rehabilitative programs.

Users include all VA personnel involved in rehabilitative care and the UDSmr.

Features

- Provides tracking of outcome-based information on rehabilitative programs.

- Provides on-line entry of rehabilitative data..

- Contains Functional Independence Measurement (FIM) evaluation tool, a proprietary functional assessment tool created by UDSmr.

- It establishes a common language that can be used to discuss disabilities across disciplines.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Patient Care Services (11)			Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Service (117C)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	4 GB	NO	Patient	1997-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
SUN SERVER	Windows NT	ORACLE	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Gulf War Registry (GWR)

Overview

The Gulf War Registry (GWR) is a dataset of veterans who have participated in the Persian Gulf War and had a GWR examination at a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facility. This centralized registry is maintained to enable VA to keep veterans informed on research findings or new compensation policies through periodic newsletters. It provides a mechanism to catalogue prominent symptoms, reproductive health, reported exposures and diagnoses, and to communicate with GW veterans. The voluntary, self-selected nature of the registry makes it valuable for health surveillance; however, it is not designed or intended to be a research tool and therefore, the results cannot be generalized to represent all GW veterans' illnesses.

The Gulf War period of conflict is between August 2, 1990 and a yet to be determined official termination date. The Gulf Theater of operations, as defined by 38 CFR 3.317, includes Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the airspace above all of these locations. The GWR is centrally housed and maintained at the Austin Automation Center (AAC). Data from code sheets received from VA facilities are entered into the registry dataset via a batch system written in Common Business Oriented Language (COBOL). Processing occurs twice a month.

The primary users are the Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards, Environmental Agents Service, and Environmental Epidemiology Service. The dataset is used for health surveillance and outreach activities.

Features

- Provides a registry for GW veterans who have had a GWR examination at a VA medical facility.

- Provides a method to communicate with GW veterans through periodic newsletters.

- Provides information that may assist in generating hypotheses for future research studies.

- Provides an on-line menu for editing and simple look-up to AAC by the VA Central Office.

- Provides Veterans Health Administration (VHA) with the capability to track patient demographics, symptoms, reproductive health, reported exposures and diagnoses.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Public Health & Environmental Hazards (13)			Environmental Agents Service (131)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	65 MB	YES	Patient	1992-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	OS390	Flat File	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Health Eligibility Center (HEC) System

Overview

The Health Eligibility Center (HEC) is responsible for determining eligibility of veterans for Veterans Health Administration (VHA) medical care. The HEC is the authoritative source on Veteran Eligibility. To be eligible, a veteran must meet basic eligibility criteria. The HEC gathers all the information needed to make eligibility decisions and records and processes the information using the HEC case management system.

The HEC receives the name of every enrolling veteran and their basic demographic information from each medical center. The HEC System then runs three data collection programs:

- one validates Social Security numbers from the Social Security Administration for Non- Service Connected (NSC) and Zero-Percent Service Connected (0%SC) Veterans
- one verifies incomes from the Internal Revenue Service for NSC and 0%SC veterans in accordance with PL 101-508
- one retrieves information stored at the Austin Automation Center (AAC) in the Beneficiary Index Record Locator System (BIRLS) and Compensation & Pension (C&P) databases on all veterans to determine eligibility and enrollment assignment.

The HEC System uses this data to prioritize veterans into seven groups by which VHA determines coverage for that year.

Features

- Verifies income of prospective enrollees in the VHA medical system notably NSC and 0%SC veterans subject to Means Test.

- Validates social security number of prospective VHA enrollee notably NSC and 0%SC veterans subject to Means Tests.

- Annually prioritizes all enrollees and confirms their eligibility for the VHA medical program.

- Sends appropriate information to the AAC to produce enrollment status letters that are sent to prospective enrollees.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Information (19)			Health Eligibility Center (16)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	127 GB	NO	Patient	1992-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
DEC ALPHA	VMS/DSM	VA FileMan	SSA, IRS, AAC, VAMCs	Health Eligibility Center, Atlanta, GA

Home Based Primary Care (HBPC)

Overview

The Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) database receives and compiles data from local Hospital Based Home Care (HBHC) modules at the 75 Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs) that run home care programs under the Home Based Primary Care program.

The primary purpose is to provide Home Based Primary Care management with casemix, caseload, and other performance information.

This program was formerly referred to as HBHC. The program name has been changed to the Home Based Primary Care program while the name for the database remained HBHC. The Home Based Primary Care information system is referred to as HBC at the Austin Automation Center (AAC) and as HBHC at the local level.

The HBHC automated a paper-based system of reporting home care episodes. When an admission form is completed an episode is opened and input into HBHC for a potential home care patient. The patient is evaluated and accepted to or rejected from the program. When a patient leaves the program for any reason an episode is closed and a discharge form completed and input into HBHC.

HBHC runs a nightly extract of information within the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA). Extractions include information on all Patient Care Encounters (PCEs) with the patient and home visits made by home care providers. Details of which provider(s) made the VistA, the date, any diagnosis and any procedures performed are included.

Each local application sends its data to the Austin HBPC database on a monthly basis. A monthly report is prepared based on this information identifying the active cases at each VAMC. A more detailed quarterly report is produced that includes national comparisons among sites.

Features

- Creates a centralized repository of information on home care admissions, discharges and patient care encounters from the 75 VAMCs with their own home care programs.

- Receives monthly updates of information from all reporting VAMCs. Creates monthly and quarterly reports allowing workload comparisons between sites.

- Enables HBPC management to control and assess the staff workload and casemix.

- Provides basis for responding to congressional inquiries as needed, and for providing extracts to Decision Support Service (DSS) on request.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Patient Care Services (11)			Geriatrics & Extended Care Strategic Healthcare Group (114)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	49 MB	NO	Patient	1983-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	MVS	VA FileMan	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Immunology Case Registry (ICR)

Overview

The Immunology Case Registry (ICR), also known as the VA HIV Registry, is a clinical tool designed to provide data for tracking information about veteran patients infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) who receive care at Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs). The local ICR helps local clinicians monitor the complex care of these patients. The national ICR provides a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)-wide review of patient demographics, clinical aspects of the disease, and resource utilization.

When a patient with known HIV infection enters a VAMC to receive care, the clinicians need to enter basic information for that patient into the local ICR. The national ICR then extracts information from the local registries along with information from other modules found within the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) environment (Medical Administration Service, Inpatient and Outpatient, Laboratory, Radiology, and Pharmacy). The extracted information is sent to the national ICR located at the Hines Office of Information Field Office.

Features

- Provides clinical summaries for use by local clinicians who have access to the ICR within the Medical Center.

- Provides information on resource utilization on the local and national level.

- Provides information for funding allocation based on disease severity and resource utilization.

- Assures privacy by not sending patient identification information from the local registries to the national registry.

- Provides audit capability for control of user access to registry.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Public Health & Environmental Hazards (13)			AIDS Service (132)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	9 GB	YES	Patient	1991-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
DEC ALPHA	VMS	VA FileMan	VAMCs	OI Field Office, Hines, IL

Ionizing Radiation Registry (IRR)

Overview

The Ionizing Radiation Registry (IRR) is a dataset of veterans who may have been exposed to ionizing radiation while on active military duty and have had a IRR examination at a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facility. The voluntary, self-selected nature of the registry makes it valuable for health surveillance; however, it is not designed or intended to be a research tool and therefore, the results cannot be generalized to represent all IR veterans. Veterans exposed to ionizing radiation under the following circumstances are eligible to receive an IRR examination:

- On-site participation in a test involving the atmospheric detonation of a nuclear device (between 1945 and 1962), at a nuclear device testing site -- the Pacific Islands e.g. Bikini, New Mexico, Nevada, etc. (whether or not the testing nation was the United States);
- Participation in the occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki, Japan, from August 6, 1945 through July 1, 1946;
- Internment as a POW in Japan during World War II which the Secretary of Veteran Affairs determines resulted in an opportunity for exposure to ionizing radiation comparable to that of veterans involved in the occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki, Japan.
- Treatment with Nasopharyngeal (NP) radium irradiation while in the active military, naval or air service.

IRR is housed and maintained at the Austin Automation Center (AAC). Data from code sheets received from VA facilities are entered into a registry dataset via a batch system written in Common Business Orineted Language (COBOL). The primary users of IRR are the Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards, Environmental Agents Service, and Environmental Epidemiology Service.

Features

- Provides information about veterans who have had an IRR examination at a VA facility and information that may assist in generating hypotheses for future research studies.

- Provides Veterans Health Administration (VHA) with the capability to track patient demographics, reported birth defects among veteran's children or grandchildren and reported radiogenic related diseases.

- Provides report generation capability.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Public Health & Environmental Hazards (13)			Environmental Agents Service (131)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	32 MB	YES	Patient	1981-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	OS390	Flat File	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Mammography Quality Standards VA (MQS VA)

Overview

The Mammography Quality Standards VA (MQS VA) database contains specific facility, VISN and system wide mammography information used to monitor and analyze the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA)'s achievement of and adherence to national mammography quality standards. It tracks, trends and monitors accreditation and certification of facilities participating in the Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) mammography program.

Information is sent to the database on a monthly basis from the Austin Automation Center (AAC). This information details how often mammography is performed and in which facility and VISN. Provider specific information and related pathology data will be available through the Women's Health Software (WHS) package roll-up features. Specific items include, but are not limited to:
- Patient Identifier; Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Code; Medical Facility; Date of Procedure; Types of imaging procedures and/or biopsies performed; and the facility performing the procedures.

The American College of Radiology (ACR) is the primary accrediting institution for all Mammography facilities in the country. The ACR is the sole accrediting institution for the Veterans Administration mammography sites. The ACR independently gathers information from all Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs) with on-site mammography and sends information weekly to the MQS VA. Forty-two Veterans Health Administration (VHA) sites are accredited. The ACR uses the information to determine clinical image quality, standards compliance, etc. as a basis for awarding accreditation.
quality standards. Accreditation requires the review of clinical images, staff credentials, etc. every 3 years
The MQS VA data is used to monitor the number of procedures performed by mammography providers and assure that providers maintain mammography with annual updates. Certification requires the facility to maintain accreditation, obtain an annual physicist survey of mammography equipment and undergo an annual inspection conducted by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The MQS VA data allows the Diagnostic Services Strategic Healthcare Group (DSSHG), which certifies mammography facilities, to notify the VAMCs when their performance reaches levels that may cause substandard images resulting in the potential loss of accreditation and certification.

An enhancement to the database has been implemented that adds the results from the annual on-site FDA inspections of VAMC mammography units. The FDA will send the DSSHG the test results and they will add the test results to the database. This will allow the DSSHG to notify VAMCs of identified deficiencies and assure that issues affecting quality mammography are corrected.

Features

- Provides tracking and trend analysis for the VA Mammography Program. Provides identification of data reporting inconsistencies.
- Provides notification to VAMCs and VISNs on status of accreditation and certification issues. Allows information to be viewed by facility, VISN, patient, and Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code.
- Provides monitoring of mammography standards test results performed by the FDA.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Patient Care Services (11)			Diagnostic Services Strategic Healthcare Group (115)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	40 MB	YES	Patient	1994-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
PC	Windows NT	MS Access	FDA, VISNs, VAMCs	VAMC, Durham, NC

Master Patient Index (MPI)

Overview

The Master Patient Index (MPI) database is the primary vehicle for assigning and maintaining unique patient identifiers. A gateway in VistA establishes connectivity between VAMC systems and patient registration processes and links to the MPI for message processing and patient identification.

The Master Patient Index (MPI) has been created to support maintenance of a unique patient identifier and a single master index of all VA patients and to allow messaging of patient information among the institutional partners [i.e., VHA, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), and National Cemetery Service (NCS)].

The MPI maintains a central index to correctly identify each patient and track the Master of Record site. MPI data is maintained in a centralized, dynamic database that is available to meet multiple information needs across many applications and systems.

MPI central database at Austin is composed of a unique list of patients and a current list of VAMCs where each patient has been seen. This enables the sharing of patient data between operationally diverse systems. Each record (or index entry) in the MPI contains a small amount of patient data used to identify individual entries.   It is primarily used by VistA applications requiring the need to enumerate unique patients at their facilities.

Features

- The MPI assigns each patient (1) a unique patient identifier (Integration Control Number, or ICN) and (2) initially assigns the requesting site as the CIRN Master Of Record (CMOR).

- Each index entry in the MPI also contains the patient's identifying information (e.g., name, SSN, date of birth) and a current list of facilities where the patient has been seen.

- The MPI is updated as new patients are added or demographic information is updated at the Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMC).

- Once a CMOR has been assigned to a patient, the MPI will only accept changes and/or updates to patient demographic from the CMOR site. The CMOR can be changed at any time.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Information (19)			Office of Information (19)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	31 GB	YES	Patient	1999-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
DEC ALPHA	VMS	VA FileMan	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Medical SAS File (MDP) (Medical District Planning (MEDIPRO))

The Medical SAS system provides a variety of SAS-formatted files containing medical data for use by remote users and Austin Automation Center (AAC) personnel in order to produce customized reports to fulfill specific reporting needs. These files, and the ability to program additional files, are available via remote dial up to the AAC mainframe.

SAS files publish unique patient statistics, utilization and workload information, and extracts from National Patient Care Database, Patient Treatment File, Eligibility and other databases at the AAC.

Feature

- These files produce a variety of statistical information for the VA community to assist Medical Center, regional, and central office personnel in reporting VA workload and patient care information.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Information Officer (19)			Health Information Management Program (191)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	6850 MB	NO	Patient	1980-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	MVS	Flat File	AAC, VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Missing Patient Register (MPR)

Overview

The Missing Patient Register (MPR) system is designed to assist Medical Center personnel in tracking and locating patients currently reported as missing. The entry of missing and found patients into the Missing Patient Registry and the active search of Integrated Patient Data Base (IPDB) data provides a means for closing cases of patients classified as missing.

Data is input into VistA software by Medical Center staff and transmitted to IPDB which serves as a central data collection location for all facilities nationally. As additional information regarding the status of missing patients is received by IPDB, update messages are transmitted back to sites that have reported the patient missing.

Features

- Provides a listing of patients being currently reported as missing by a VA medical facility.

- Allows tracking and reporting of missing patient information from each VA site for distribution to all facilities.

- Provides VA treatment history for missing patient.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of the Chief Network Officer (10N)			VISN Support Service Center (10NS)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
Active	N/A	YES	Patient Databases	1995-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
DEC ALPHA	VMS	VA Fileman	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

of hyperlipidemia and cervical cancer.

- outcomes for clinical and health services research on:

National Enrollment Database (NEBD)

Overview

The National Enrollment Database (NEDB) resulted from the Eligibility Reform Act of 1996 that legislated the provision of VA health care services through an annual patient enrollment system. The development, implementation, and operation of the NEDB will be a critical success factor for meeting the provisions of the Act and meeting the VA's enrollment business requirements. At the time of this writing the NEDB was targeted for implementation in late Winter 2000.

The current system of passing data extracts among customers of Enrollment data was intended to be an interim solution only, and it cannot, nor was it expected to, meet long-term business objectives. Because of its limitations, it was essential to replace this interim system with the NEDB as quickly as possible to enable the VHA to effectively manage the enrollment process.

The NEDB is a critical IT initiative essential to support VHA's core mission and to meet legislative mandates and will provide a well-defined and tool-based change management process, along with a solid technical approach and architecture consistent with current industry practice. The NEDB will make interfacing to existing and planned VA systems, including VBA systems, much easier to accomplish because it is designed to meet industry standards and to be scalable to meet new and changing business and information technology requirements.

Implementation of the NEDB will mitigate risk for the VA by providing timely access to critical data, data cleansing, high level of data quality, and expedient analysis for strategic and operational decisions. The NEDB and associated data mart (NEDM) will support consolidation of facility-based enrollment information and will provide a single source of data for national reporting and for enrollment information querying. The NEDB will serve as a source for supplying data to individual VA business elements performing scheduled operational and analytical responsibilities associated with managing VHA enrollment.

Features

- Enrollment and demographic changes will be sent from the Health Eligibility Center to the database in Austin.
- The NEDB will provide downloads of critical information to the systems that use enrollment information for analyses.
- The web-based operational data mart will serve on the VA Intranet as a source for queries associated with enrollment, for responding to customer inquiries, and for answering enrollment management questions that do not require linking enrollment data to other patient-related data.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Information (19)			Office of Information (19)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
DESIGN/ DEVELOPMENT	1 TB	YES	Patient	Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
DEC Alpha	UNIX	ORACLE	Health Eligibility Center (HEC)	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

National Mental Health Database System (NMHDS)

Overview

The National Mental Health Database System (NMHDS) records and stores information about veterans treated for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) by the over 100 Specialized Outpatient PTSD Programs at local Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs) in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA).

PTSD patients new to treatment are administered a standard 42-question interview by a clinician. Their answers are recorded in the NMHDS database at the local VAMC. Weekly, each program's information is uploaded to a central database located and operated at the Pittsburgh VAMC by the Mental Health Strategic Health Group.

The information is gathered into a national database comprised of sociodemographic background, diagnostic history and period of service for the treated veterans.

Due to the sensitive nature of the information, access to is limited to a specific end user, the Northeast Program Evaluation Center (NEPEC), in Connecticut. NEPEC uses the information as a performance measure for specialized outpatient PTSD programs, and provides feedback to these programs regarding the characteristics of veterans treated.

Formerly, NMHDS also stored information on substance abuse patients. However, that function is now handled by a separate database called the Addiction Severity Index (ASI) running at Pittsburgh.

Features

- Provides for the collection and storage of information on PTSD patients.

- Provides information to the NEPEC for performance measurements.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Patient Care Services (11)			Mental Health & Behavioral Sciences Service (116A)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	250 MB	NO	Patient	1992-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
Compaq File Server	UNIX	ORACLE	VAMCs	VAMC, Pittsburgh (HD), PA

National Patient Care Database (NPCD)

Overview

The National Patient Care Database (NPCD) resulted from a data modeling project sponsored by the Medical Information Resource Management Office (MIRMO) (now the Office of Information) during Fiscal Year 1995. A Veterans Affairs (VA) workgroup supported by a contractor analyzed four Veterans Health Administration (VHA) corporate systems that collect patient care data. NPCD now contains data collected from five former VHA corporate systems patient care databases:
- Outpatient Clinic System (OPC)
- Patient Treatment File (PTF)
- Integrated Patient Database (IPDB)
- Event Driven Reporting System (EDR)
- Spinal Cord Dysfunction (SCD)

NPCD initially housed only outpatient information, however with the completion of NPCD phase II, inpatient PTF data has been added. HL-7 messages provide daily updates of patient demographics, admission, transfer and discharge events. Diagnostic data is updated using the current PTF editing and processing and then loaded into the database. In the past year NPCD added Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) data, Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Modifiers, and Provider Profiling data. Additional patient data is targeted for addition in FY 00.   Included are:
- Associated Care Group (ACG) codes
- Military Sexual Trauma (MST) exposure and treatment data.

NPCD is based on an entity-relationship model of health care interaction. When a patient interacts with a practitioner in a specific location at a specific date and time, this interaction is known as an encounter. Each encounter includes a description of the procedure (what is done) and the diagnosis (why). NPCD is housed and maintained at the Austin Automation Center (AAC). Processing occurs daily.

Features

- Provides integrated patient care data across VHA facilities and care setting.

- Provides comprehensive data for research studies.

- Provides information for workload analysis.

- Provides data for patient care analysis.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Information (19)			Information Assurance Office (19F)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	1.0 TB	NO	Patient	1997-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
Compaq 8400	UNIX	ORACLE	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

National Prosthetics Patient Database (NPPD)

Overview

The National Prosthetics Patient Database (NPPD) established a central database of Prosthetics data recorded at each VHA facility. Its objective was to enable clinical reviews to increase quality, reduce costs, and improve efficiency of the Prosthetics program.
Increase the quality of the services to our veterans by providing a means to:
- Develop consistency in services; review prescription and management practices; develop training; monitor home medical equipment; and measure performance improvements.
Reduce costs by:
- Comparing costs system-wide; identifying common items for consolidated contracting; identifying costs for Medical Cost Care Funds (MCCF) purposes; and improving contracting cost benefit.
Improve efficiency by:
- Validating the data; improving budget management; determining where coding errors occur and providing training; and comparing unique SSNs for multiple site usage and item issue.
The **NPPD** Menu provides patient information, patient eligibility, prosthetic treatment, date of provision, cost, vendor, and purchasing agent information. This system tracks average cost data and its usage and will provide on a quarterly basis detailed and summary reports by station, VISN and agency. The **NPPD** Menu resides in VISTA at the Medical Center level. This data is updated quarterly. Data is rolled up at each facility and transmitted to Hines. That data is returned to the VISNs on Compact Disks and formatted for Microsoft's Access database program. Through that program, pre-defined and ad hoc queries can be made against the data, providing a full range of reports for viewing and analysis.
The primary purpose of this database is to provide financial and clinical oversight of the Prosthetics program and is used primarily by the Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service (PSAS) Strategic Health Care Group including VISN staff, VISN Prosthetics Representatives, Prosthetics Program Managers and other Prosthetics staff.

Features

- Provides ad hoc reporting capability to conduct cost analysis and prescription practice reviews.

- Enhances prescription practices and research by providing a means for national utilization comparisons using HCPCS (Health Care Financing Administration's Common Procedure Coding System) standardization.

- Provides a patient item history on main NPPD groups which are based on HCPCS codes. These groups include:
    - Wheelchairs and accessories; artificial limbs; braces and orthotics; oxygen and respiratory; durable medical equipment; and surgical implants

- HCPCS are mapped to the NPPD Groups/Lines, providing a means to analyze, validate, summarize, and report usage and cost at the Medical Center and national levels.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service (113)			Office of Information (19)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	16 GB	NO	Patient	1997-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
Win Tel PC	Windows NT	MS ACCESS	VAMCs	OI Field Office, Hines, IL

National Survey of Veterans (NSV)

Overview

The National Survey of Veterans (NSV) is a survey aimed at delineating the characteristics of the veteran population at a single point in time. The information collected in this survey allows the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to follow trends in the veteran population, compare veterans who use VA programs to those who do not, and provides a current resource of data for policy analyses and future program and facility planning. Under Section 527, 38 U.S. Code, the VA Seccretary has the authority to gather data for the purpose of planning and evaluating VA programs. The NSV was conducted under this general authorization. The NSV is conducted in order to obtain information relevant to the planning and budgeting of VA programs and services for veterans, in general, as well as for certain subgroups of veterans and to provide a snapshot profile of the veteran population for longitudinal comparisons. Veterans were selected for inclusion in the NSV using two methods:

- Using Randon Digit Dialing (RDD) of U.S. and Puerto Rico telephone numbers.
- Randomly from VA computerized files of veterans with service-connected disabilities and/or veterans who have used the VA medical facilities during 1992.

A total of 11,645 veterans completed the telephone interview, 5,529 had been selected using RDD and 6,116 from VA fies. The VA computerized files combined the following files:

- Veterans receiving compensation for service - connected disabilities during 1992 from the VA Compensation and Pension File (CNP).
- Veterans receiving inpatient treatment at VA medical facilities during 1992 from the Patient Treatment File (PTF) and Census File (Census) of inpatients as of 12/31/92.
- Veterans receiving outpatient treatment at VA medical facilities during 1992 from the VA Outpatient Clinic File (OPC).

Features

- Allows VA to monitor trends in the veteran populatin and compare characteristics of veterans who use VA programs to those who do not.

- Provides a current resource of data available for policy analyses and information needed for such issues as eligibility reform and other health care reforms which are likely to have an effect on veterans. Provides and generates reporting capabilities.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy (008A)			Office of Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy (008A)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	81.37 MB	NO	Patient	1993-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	OS390	Flat File	Telephone interviews with 11,645 veterans.	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Patient Advocate

Overview

The Patient Advocate database records and tracks instances of patient compliments and complaints concerning their care at Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare facilities. These instances of patient contacts may come from a variety of sources including family members, the patient, congressional members and/or veterans service offices on behalf of the veterans receiving care at VA facilities.

This database provides a menu of reports that can be used to track and trend data across VISNs.

Reports of contact allow the Patient Advocate to trend compliments and complaints, and ensure that issues raised are resolved. The reports include data such as patient demographics, date of contact, method of contact, who made the contact, issues involved, what service was involved, resolution date and resolution status.

Data is collected from Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs) and sent to the VISN Support Center (VSSC) where the data is maintained and reports created.

Features

- Allows recording and tracking of instances of patient complaints and compliments.

- Provides a analysis of trends of customer complaints.

- Generates a report of customer contacts.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of the Chief Network Officer (10N)			VISN Support Service Center (10NS)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
DESIGN/ DEVELOPMENT	N/A	NO	Patient	2000-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	MVS	VA FileMan	VAMCs	VSSC, Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Patient Assessment File (PAF)

Overview

The Patient Assessment File (PAF) database compiles the results of the Patient Assessment Instrument (PAI) questionnaire filled out for long term and intermediate care Veterans Health Administration (VHA) patients. The PAI is filled out within two weeks of admission. It is also completed semi-annually on April 1 and October 1 for each patient by a registered nurse familiar with the patient. The PAI questions cover medical treatments, conditions, selected diagnoses, activities of daily living, behaviors, some rehabilitation therapies, and chronic respiratory support.

The database is managed by the Geriatrics & Extended Care Strategic Healthcare Group in the Office of Patient Care Services. It is currently running at the Austin Automation Center (AAC) and is stored in flat files.

PAF's primary customer is the Allocation Resource Center (ARC) in Braintree MA. The ARC receives the data from AAC and combines it with data from the Patient Treatment File (PTF) which contains more detailed demographic and treatment information. The ARC builds ORACLE tables, assigning RUG II (Resource Utilization Group II) scores and weighted work units reflecting the level and type of care needed. The 16 different weighted work units, ranging from 479 to 1800, are a factor in the resource allocation and budget decisions on long term care, and are used to measure efficiency.

The data is also used in other reports to Central Office, the VISNs, and the facilities. Several other units also use PAF information including the Decision Support System (DSS).

Currently, PAF is in the process of being replaced by the Resident Assessment Instrument/Minimum Data Set (RAI/MDS). RAI/MDS will use a much more extensive questionnaire as its source of information. The RAI/MDS will provide clinical data and care protocols in addition to the newer RUG scores, and is required by HCFA (Health Care Financial Administration) for all Medicare and Medicaid funded hospitals.

Feature

- Provides the ARC with the information needed to assign RUGS scores and weighted work units, which are used to classify patients and to determine workload.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Patient Care Services (11)			Geriatrics & Extended Care Strategic Healthcare Group (114)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	10 MB	NO	Patient	1987-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
IBM MAINFRAME	MVS	Flat File	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Patient Treatment File (PTF)

Overview

The Patient Treatment File (PTF) contains a statistical record for each inpatient care episode provided under Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) auspices in VA and non -VA facilities nationwide. Each episode contains data on admission, diagnosis, procedures, surgical episodes, and disposition (discharge) information and Diagnostic Related Group (DRG). Each transfer is recorded to allocate days of care properly to the service(s) responsible for that care. Recurring and special purpose reports are used for studies on patient movement trends, diagnostic frequency, workload, budget preparation, Diagnostic Related Group (DRG) assignment and accreditation requirements.

A database of statistical reports is available for online access via Roger's Software Development's (RSD) Online Report Viewing. Several large data files are installed on-line at the Austin Automation Center (AAC) for remote access. Selected data can be downloaded to perform end user processing, including report generation.

As of FY99, PTF data has been folded into the National Patient Care Database (NPCD). Information is received from a variety of modules in the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA). This batch system is written in Common Business Oriented Language (COBOL) and ALC. Processing is done on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis.

Primary customers are the Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs), the Health Information Manager, the Boston Development Center, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning, the National Center of Veteran Analysis and Statistics, and the Analysis and Statistics Service.

Features

- Contains statistical record for each episode of inpatient care provided under VA auspices.
- Provides clinical information in an encoded format.
- Provides information for health science research.
- Provides analysis of patient movement trends.
- Provides workload analysis.
- Provides budget preparation assistance.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Information (19)			Health Information Management Program (193B3)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	2 MB	NO	Patient	1975-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
S-390 SERVER	OS390	Flat File	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

Radiation Exposure Inquiries Database

Overview

The Radiation Exposure Inquiries Database contains information necessary to manage inquiries from veterans, family members, and others concerned about the possible exposure to ionizing radiation during military service or at Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs).

It was developed by the Washington Office of Information Field Office (OI) to assist the Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards.

The system provides information about the inquirer, the alleged exposure, the agency or facility to which the inquiry was assigned, and the status of the response. Over 1900 inquiries have been entered into the database.

Feature

- Provides a tool for tracking and providing information on all veterans that have filed inquiries on radiation experiences.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Public Health & Environmental Hazards (13)			Office of Public Health & Environmental Hazards (13)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	1 MB	YES	Patient	1994-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
DEC ALPHA	VMS	VA FileMan	VAMCs, DoD	OI Field Office, Silver Spring, MD

Remote Order Entry System (ROES)

Overview

The Remote Order Entry System (ROES) is used for ordering stock and custom hearing aids, hearing aid accessories and batteries, prosthetic items, and assistive devices from the Veterans Affairs Denver Distribution Center (VADDC). Assistive devices and hearing aids not purchased from the VADDC may also be registered to a patient's record through ROES.

At each Medical Center, ROES exists as a module of the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA). Patient data combined with transaction information entered by the user is batched and transmitted automatically via VistA Mailman over the Department of Veteran's Affairs' (VA) telecommunication network to the VADDC. VADDC receives and processes orders daily. Order status updates are transmitted to ordering stations as applicable. The registry database created from information obtained from ROES orders is available online to VADDC customers so they may track the status of orders and the history of patient and device purchases and repairs as well as sales information.

ROES is used by the Audiology and Speech Pathology Service, the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service, the Nursing Users Group, other VA services and other government agencies.

Features

- Allows for placement of orders for hearing aids and other prosthetic items purchased by remotely located customers.

- Uses VistA verified patient data for the determination of patient eligibility and demographic information.

- Allows for processing of approved orders for batteries and prosthetic socks that come directly from veterans to VADDC.

- Provides a real-time online database for tracking patient order status and history, device history by serial number and customer sales.

- Provides clinical management tools and reporting for customers.

- Provides accurate warranty registration for serialized devices.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Acquisition and Materiel Management (90)			Denver Distribution Center (905)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	6 GB	YES	Patient	1990-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
Dell 4300	Intersystems Cache	VA FileMan	VAMCs	Denver Distribution Center, Denver, CO

Resident Assessment Instrument/Minimum Data Set (RAI/MDS)

Overview

The Resident Assessment Instrument/Minimum Data Set (RAI/MDS) is a comprehensive assessment and care planning process used by the nursing home industry since 1990 as a requirement for nursing home participation in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The RAI/MDS, a valid and reliable instrument, provides data for assessing nursing home resident functional status over time. The Department of Veteran Affairs' (VA) commitment to quality propelled the implementation of the RAI/MDS in its nursing homes. In addition to providing consistent clinical information, the RAI/MDS can be used as a measure of both quality and resource utilization, thereby serving as a benchmark for quality and cost data within the VA as well as with community based nursing facilities.

Currently the VA utilizes the Patient Assessment Instrument (PAI) on a semi annual basis to determine resource utilization. The PAI is strictly a measure of workload, while the RAI/MDS integrates clinical status with resource utilization. The resource utilization is calculated electronically from the interactions of the elements in the MDS and grouped into 44 categories referred to as Resource Utilization Groups (RUGs) III. Patients are assessed quarterly.   Residents are assessed on admission, quarterly, and annually. PAI information is currently entered into the patient database and electronically transferred to the Patient Assessment File (PAF) located at the Austin Automation Center (AAC). Once the electronic version of the RAI/MDS is implemented, the RAI/MDS data will replace the PAI, and MDS data will be transmitted to the AAC. The data will be grouped for analysis at the Allocation Resource Center (ARC) in Braintree, MA. Currently, most VA nursing homes complete the MDS manually until the automated version can be implemented. Conversion to electronic data entry and transmission to the AAC is scheduled for completion system-wide by year-end 2000 at which time the PAI will no longer be utilized.

Feature

- Captures comprehensive clinical/functional data on admission, quarterly, and annually on long-term care residents admitted to VAMCs long term care facilities. Provides a systematic approach to identification of resident problems for care planning and treatment.   Provides data for budget and resource utilization by grouping data into 44 RUGs III categories. Serves as a source of data for benchmarking quality in a consistent manner both within the VA and with non-VA facilities.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Patient Care Services (11)			Geriatrics & Extended Care Strategic Healthcare Group (114)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	5.13 GB	NO	Patient	Design
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
DELL WEB SERVER	WINDOWS NT	ORACLE	VAMCs	Austin Automation Center, Austin, TX

VA National Clozapine Registry

Overview

The VA National Clozapine Registry tracks the health and demographics of patients who have been prescribed clozapine by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Clozapine, or the brand name Clozaril, is a drug used to treat the most serious cases of schizophrenia. Unfortunately, clozapine may also affect portions of the blood, lowering the body's resistance to infection and sometimes creating life-threatening circumstances. Realizing the severity of the problem, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) established guidelines for analysis of White Blood Cells and Neutrophils and set strict minimum limits. The FDA also mandated that any manufacturer of clozapine must maintain a Clozapine Registry. These registries are to track the location and the health of clozapine patients and to ensure "weekly White Blood Cell testing prior to delivery of the next week's supply of medication".

To date, the clozapine manufacturer registries have been unable to develop sufficient controls to meet these requirements, especially the ability to prevent dispensing clozapine when blood results are abnormal. However, because of the unique structure of the Veteran's Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA), the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) obtained permission from the FDA and clozapine manufacturers to use its in-place computer network to evaluate the safety of the clozapine prescription at the time of dispensing, gather weekly patient information in one central location, then export this data to manufacturer clozapine registries. The VA assigned functional administration of this effort to the National Clozapine Coordinating Center (NCCC) located in Dallas, Texas.

Weekly data on each VA clozapine patient is processed at two locations.

Facility Level -- When a clozapine prescription is written, a computer program in each facility's internal computer system retrieves white blood cell count, neutrophil count, and clozapine dose and evaluates the information according to FDA guidelines. If an adverse blood condition is found, the computer may warn to trigger a physician reevaluation, or lock out entirely to prevent dispensing, depending on the severity. Weekly, this information, along with certain patient demographic information, is gathered locally and transmitted to Hines Office of Information Field Office for centralized storage. This data can only be accessed by the NCCC.

National Level – Information on the clozapine patients' prescriber, clozapine dose, white blood cell count, and neutrophil count is downloaded from the Hines OI Field Office database on a weekly basis. An ancillary computer program reformats the data and evaluates the information for inconsistencies and data gathering errors. The computer-corrected data is manually compared with hand-written facsimile information sent to the NCCC by each clozapine site. This manually corrected data is again reformatted for data storage in MS Access format at the NCCC. The corrected data is also reformatted into ASCII fixed-length fields and transmitted via modem to the manufacturers' Clozapine Registry and, in turn, to the FDA.

Features

- Provides data on VA clozapine patients required to meet national commitments to the FDA and manufacturers' clozapine registries.

- Provides the best possible safety for VA clozapine patients by using a unique interlock at the pharmacy level which warns of problems, or prevents clozapine from being dispensed when white blood cell count or neutrophil count fall outside a series of FDA guidelines. This computer evaluation provides the safest domestic clozapine dispensing program available.

- Provides for secure communication between the NCCC and local VA computers, using innovative bidirectional communication links. This system does not violate local security restrictions.

- Provides research data on a subset of schizophrenic patients who have not responded to traditional antipsychotic medications or who have suffered debilitating side effects. This data includes basic demographic information, white blood cell counts and, since 1999, neutrophil counts on over 4500 patients who have tried clozapine in over 120 VA hospitals.

- Saves millions of dollars a year for the VA ($9.3 million in 1999) in the form of lower drug costs from the manufacturers, who deduct the cost of clozapine monitoring from their regular prices.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Patient Care Services (11)			Mental Health & Behavioral Sciences Service (111C)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	70 MB	YES	Patient	1991-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
PC	Windows NT	MS Access	VAMCs	National Clozapine Coordinating Center, VAMC, Dallas, TX

Veterans Administration Central Cancer Registry (VACCR)

Overview

The Veterans Administration Central Cancer Registry (VACCR) receives and stores information on cancer diagnosis and treatment constraints compiled and sent in by the local cancer registry staff at each of the 120 Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs) that handle cancer patients.

The information sent is encoded to meet the site-specific requirements for registry inclusion as established by several oversight bodies, including the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries, the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer, and the American Joint Commission on Cancer, among others.

The information is obtained from a wide variety of medical record documents at the local Medical Center pertaining to each Veterans Health Administration (VHA) cancer patient. The information is then transmitted to the VACCR. Details collected include site, group, histology, general summary stage, age at diagnosis breakout, diagnostic confirmations, etc.

Reports based on this highly sensitive information is only available to senior VHA management.

Features

- Provides summary reports on VHA cancer patients annually and as requested by VHA management.

- Stores large quantities of data on VHA cancer patients derived from patient medical records in accordance with national cancer industry guidelines.

Program Office			Responsible Office	
Office of Patient Care Services (11)			Accute Care, Medical Service (111)	
Status	Size	Data Registry	Business Area	Time Frame
ACTIVE	800 MB	Yes	Patient	1995-Present
Hardware	O/S	Storage Method	Source of Data	Physical Location
Micron Pentium	Windows NT	ORACLE	VAMCs	VAMC, Washington, DC

List of Acronyms

AAC	Austin Automation Center
AACS	Automated Allocation and Control System
ACG	Associated Care Group
ACR	American College of Radiology
AOR	Agent Orange Registry
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AIMC	Academic Information Management Center
AMIS	Automated Management Information System
API	Application Programmer Interface
AR	Accounts Receivable
ARC	Allocation Resource Center
AsCMD	Associate Chief Medical Director
ASI	Addiction Severity Index
BIRLS	Beneficiary Identification and Records Locator System
C&P	Compensation and Pension
CAMS	Contract Administration Management System
CCPC	Consolidated Co-payment Processing Center
CCSHS	Center for Cooperative Studies and Health Services
CDC	Center for Disease Control and Prevention
CDR	Cost Distribution Report
CHAMPVA	Civilian Health and Medical Program of VA
CHIS	Construction History Information System
CICSP	Continuous Improvement in Cardiac Surgery Program
CIS	Construction Information System
CMD	Capacity Management Database
CMIS	Construction Management Information System
CMOP	Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy
CMT	Centralized Means Testing
CNH	Community Nursing Home
CNO	Chief Network Office
CNP	Compensation and Pension File
COBOL	Common Business Oriented Language
CPT	Current Procedural Terminology
CTV	Composite Time Value
DAS	Dental Activity System
DBA	Database Administration
DEERS	Defense Enrollment Eligibility System
DHCP	Distributed Hospital Computer Program
DoD	Department of Defense
DRG	Diagnostic Related Group
DSSHG	Diagnostic Services Strategic Healthcare Group
DSS	Decision Support System
E3R	Enhancement Request
EDR	Event Driven Reporting System
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
EEOC	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
EES	Employee Education System
EIS	Executive Information System
EPI	Emerging Pathogens Initiative
EPS	Exception Processing Section
EPSC	Eastern Pacemaker Surveillance Center

ERB	Executive Resources Board
ERMIS	External Review Management Information System
ESP	Energy Savings Projects
FAR	Federal Acquisition Review
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FEE	Fee Basis Medical & Pharmacy System
FIM	Functional Independence Measurement
FIRM	Foundation Information for Real Property Management
FIVEYR	Five Year Facility Plan
FM	Facilities Management
FMP	Foreign Medical Program
FMS	Financial Management System
FSC	Financial Services Center
VistA	Functional Status and Outcome Database
FSS	Federal Supply Schedule
FTEE	Full-Time Equivalent Employee
GAF	General Assessment of Function
GAO	General Accounting Office
GB	Gigabyte
GRECC	Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers
GSA	General Services Administration
GWR	Gulf War Registry
GUI	Graphic User Interface
HAC	Health Administration Center
HBC	Home Based Primary Care
HBHC	Home Based Home Care
HCFA	Health Care Finance Administration
HEC	Health Eligibility Center
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HL7	Health Level Seven
HMIS	History Management Information System
HMO	Health Maintenance Organization
HQ	Headquarters
HTML	HyperText Markup Language
JCAHO	Joint Commission for the Accreditation of the Health Care Organization
ICR	Immunology Case Registry
IG	Inspector General
IH	Industrial Hygienist
ILL	Interlibrary Loan
IPDB	Integrated Patient Database
IRM	Information Resource Management
IRR	Ionizing Radiation Registry
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
KB	Kilobyte
LAN	Local Area Network
LEASE	Lease/Project Tracking
MB	Megabyte
MCCR	Medical Care Cost Recovery
MDS	Minimum Data Set
MI	Minor Improvement
MI	Medical Inspector
MIRMO	Medical Information Resource Management Office
MQS VA	Mammography Quality Standards VA
MS	Microsoft
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet

MST	Military Sexual Trauma
MTP	Methadone Treatment Plan
NAC	National Acquisition Center
NCA	National Cemetery Administration
NCCC	National Clozapine Coordinating Center
NCHP-CPSDB	National Center for Health Promotion Cholesterol and PAP Screening Database
NCI	National Cancer Institute
NDS	National Data Systems
NDB	National Database
NEPEC	North East Program Evaluation Center
NESC	National Engineering Service Center
NM	Nuclear Medicine
NMHDS	National Mental Health Database System
NMIP	National Laboratory Workload & Laboratory management Index Program
NOIS	National On-Line Information Sharing
NPCD	National Patient Care Database
NPM	National Patch Module
NRM	Non-Recurring Maintenance
NRMIS	National resource Management Information System
NSC	Non-Service Connected
NSQIP	National Surgical Quality Improvement Program
NSV	National Survey of Veterans
NVH	Non-VA Hospital System
NVS	National VistA Support
OEE	Office of Employee Education
OI	Office of Information
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
OPC	Outpatient Clinic
OPF	Outpatient File
ORM	Office of Resolution Management
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PAF	Patient Assessment File
PAI	Patient Assessment Information
PBM	Pharmacy Benefits Management
PC	Personal Computer
PDQ	Physician Data Query
PERC	Performance Evaluation Resource Center
PLIARS	Plan Library Information and Retrieval System
P&LMS	Pathology and Laboratory Science
POW	Prisoner of War
PPS	Prospective System
PRC	Primary Receiving Center
PROMISE	Project Management and Information Systems
PSA	Primary Service Area
PTF	Patient Treatment File
PTSD	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
RAI	Resident Assessment Instrument
RCS	Records Control System
RDD	Random Digit Dialing
RDIS	Research and development Information System
REMS	Resident Engineer Management System
ROES	Remote Order Entry System
RPC	Remote Procedure Call
RPM	Resource Planning and Management

RSD	Roger's Software Development
RUG	Resource Utilization Groups
RVU	Relative Value Units
SAS	Statistical Analysis Software
SQL	Structured Query Language
SRA	Surgery Risk Assessment
SSA	Social Security Administration
SSC	Secondary Support Center
SSN	Social Security Number
TAF	Title Authority File
TB	Terabyte
TDAs	Travel Disbursement Authorities
TRACE	Tracking Continuing Education
UDSmr	Uniform Data System for Medical Rehabilitation
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
VA	Veteran Affairs
VAAR	Veterans Affairs Acquisition Review
VACCR	Veterans Administration Central Cancer Registry
VACO	Veterans Affairs Central Office
VADDC	Veterans Affairs Denver Distribution Center
VAHQ	Veterans Affairs Headquarters
VALNET	VA Library Network
VALU	VA Learning University
VAMC	Veteran Affairs Medical Center
VAV	VA Voluntary Service
VBA	Veterans Benefits Administration
VERA	Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation
VHA	Veterans Health Administration
VISN	Veterans Integrated Service Networks
VISTA	Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture
VSSC	VISN Support Service Center
VSO	Veterans Service Organization
WHS	Women's Health Software
WWU	Weighted Work Units
0%SC	Zero-Percent Service Connected

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