

Value of the Master Patient Index (MPI) to Providers

The Master Patient Index (MPI) offers the provider a complete view of a patient's medical and treatment history. It has the ability to uniquely identify patients across the entire enterprise and provide a list of all treating facilities at which a patient has received care. The MPI also offers an interface for accessing information currently maintained by the Department of Defense (DoD), Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), and many others.

Adding a Patient to the MPI

During the registration process, a query to the MPI is initiated to determine if the patient has already been assigned a national Integration Control Number (ICN). If a matching entry is found on the MPI, the patient is linked to that existing entry and the ICN is sent back to the requesting system. If a potential match entry is found, further investigation is required by the MPI Administrative Point of Contact (POC) at the site to determine whether the local patient entry should be linked to an existing ICN. After a new record is linked to the existing entry, providers are able to remotely view patient data from all linked VHA facilities, through the Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS) Remote Data View/VistAWeb.



Identity Management Data Quality Team

This team is responsible for the overall integrity of the patient identity data within the MPI to provide the longitudinal health record. Team members are dedicated to supporting VHA site personnel and others throughout the organization and serve as the primary liaison to the MPI POCs at each VA site.

The team plays a crucial role to:

- Ensure the data quality of identity traits, ICNs, and correlations via the MPI
- Resolve existing duplicates and other data quality issues on the MPI
- Identify and improve processes and methods of entering information into local VistA systems and the MPI to ensure the quality of data
- Facilitate the dissemination of information and training to users to improve the understanding of the MPI and Identity Management

Contacts

Elizabeth Franchi
Director, VHA HDI Data Quality Program
Phone: (414) 389-4191

Sara Temnitz
Data Quality Business Product Manager
Phone: (414) 389-4192

Jackie Houston
IMDQ Program Manager
Phone: (205) 554-3449

A complete list of the Identity Management Data Quality Analysts can be found on the IMDQ Web site at: http://vista.med.va.gov/mpi_dqmt/.



Veterans Health
Administration

Office of Information
Health Data and Informatics
Data Quality Program
Identity Management Data Quality Team

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Master Patient Index

Linking Quality Healthcare Across the Nation





What Is the Master Patient Index (MPI)?

The MPI is a database that holds over 15 million patient medical record entries. It is populated from all VA facilities nationwide. This index is the access point linking patient information for an enterprise-wide view of individual and aggregate patient information. Patients are matched within the MPI database through their unique identifier called an Integration Control Number (ICN). The use of an ICN at one or more VA sites facilitates integrated patient care, while promoting the OneVA vision.

Mission of the MPI

- To identify a patient and link that patient's data across the VA healthcare system and corporate databases using the ICN
- To serve as the authoritative source of a patient's ICN
- To ensure the accuracy of patient information and patient identification, which directly affects clinical, administrative, billing, and Interdepartmental processes, such as eligibility data shared between the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA).

NEW FEATURE - Primary View

Primary View (PV) functionality replaces the Coordinating Master of Record (CMOR) concept and creates a "best of breed" enterprise view of patient identity data. PV functionality uses business rules and authority scores to rate the data coming to the MPI from a site to obtain the most complete and accurate data. The scores are based on events and activities at the location from which the update is sent. Current registration, active prescription, and a recent treatment date are types of criteria used to score the authority.

A new exception type has been created, called the Primary View Reject. These exceptions occur when a site updates an identity trait that is rejected for the PV, and appears at the top of the local VistA Exception Handler list. After reviewing the Primary View Reject, if the site believes the edit is valid, staff should contact the IMDQ Team for assistance.

All CMOR Management options have been placed out of order with the implementation of the PV. This should improve the identity data available at the enterprise level for patients. It allows sites that are actively treating a patient the authority to maintain the patient's record.

CAUTION



Duplicate records on the MPI can limit a clinician's ability to see a complete picture of the care provided at other VHA treating facilities. Complete and accurate identity and demographic data eliminates the creation of duplicate records. It does this by ensuring the patient is correctly matched under the same ICN with other VHA facilities where the patient has been treated. If patient data is not available from another known treating facility, the ICN may not have been correctly assigned or a data quality issue may exist.

The MPI Administrative Point of Contact (POC) or the national Identity Management Data Quality team should be contacted to assist in resolving any issues.

As VHA moves closer to the reality of a longitudinal record for each patient and the ability to share that record among stakeholders, it is even more critical that each patient's unique record identifier (ICN) is maintained and duplicate patient records are eliminated.



Catastrophic edits to identity are modifications to a patient record that change the original patient record to that of another patient (inappropriately editing that existing record). The most common causes of catastrophic edits to identity are erroneous patient selection, "recycling" of patient entries, using patient entry as a "template," and insufficient review of patient records involved in the Duplicate Record Merge process. Catastrophic edits pose a significant patient safety risk and are handled as the highest priority by the IMDQ team.

All staff members who enter, edit, and/or merge patient records are required to obtain certification through mandatory training, per VHA Directive 2006-036. For information about Catastrophic Edits to Identity and related training please visit: <http://vawww.vistau.med.va.gov/vistau/PCEI>

Data Quality and Identity Management

All facility staff play a vital role in the data quality of patient demographic information and the identity management process.

Helpful Tips:

- Collect and record the most complete and accurate identity data about patients
- Use extreme care when selecting and updating patient records
- Avoid the use of "unknown," "deceased," and other inaccurate responses for demographic data fields. If the information is not known, the field should be left blank until it can be obtained
- Refer to VHA Directive 2006-036 for data quality requirements and the input of data for identity traits at Web site: http://vawww1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1434
- Merge known local duplicate patient records at sites in a timely manner using the Duplicate Record Merge software