Database & Methods Cyberseminar Series

Session 2: Requesting Approval for Access to VA Data

November 6, 2017

Linda Kok, MA

VA Information Resource Center

Poll #1: Your role as a data user

What is your role in research and/or quality improvement?

- Investigator, PI, Co-I
- Data manager, analyst, or programmer
- Project coordinator
- Other – please describe via the Q&A function

Poll #2: Your experience with VA data

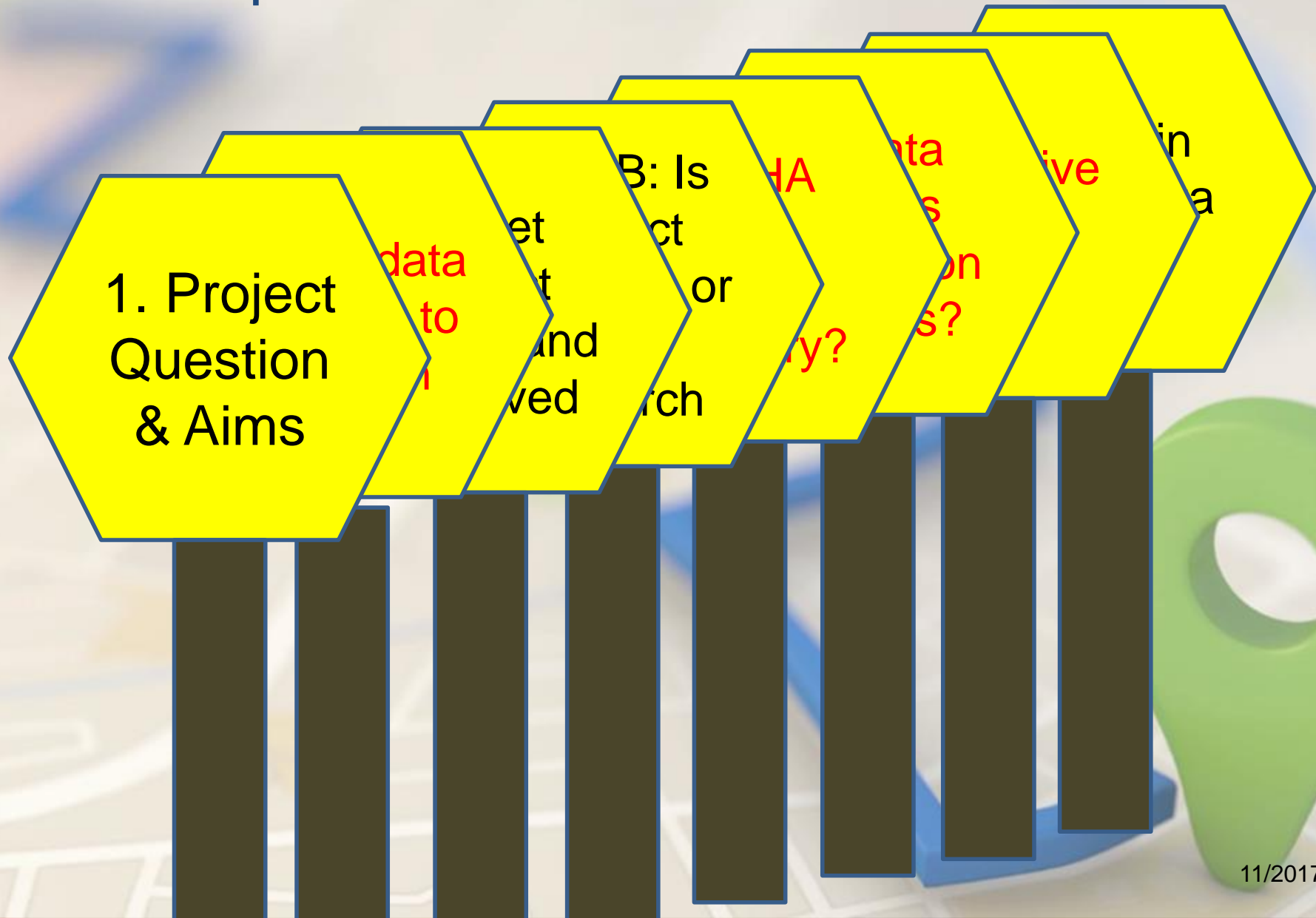How many years of experience do you have working with VA data?

- One year or less

- More than 1, less than 3 years

- At least 3, less than 7 years

- At least 7, less than 10 years

- 10 years or more

Today's objective

The purpose of this cyberseminar is to

provide an introduction to

requesting approval for access to VA data

Road map to research data access

1. Project Question & Aims

Session roadmap

2. Find data to match to question

5. VHA Data Access Category?

6. Data access permission process?

7. Receive data

2. Find data to match to question

Types of data: Examples

Patient health records (EHR)

Allergy, Lab tests, Lab results, Echocardiogram, Immunization, Inpatient, Outpatient, Pharmacy, Radiology
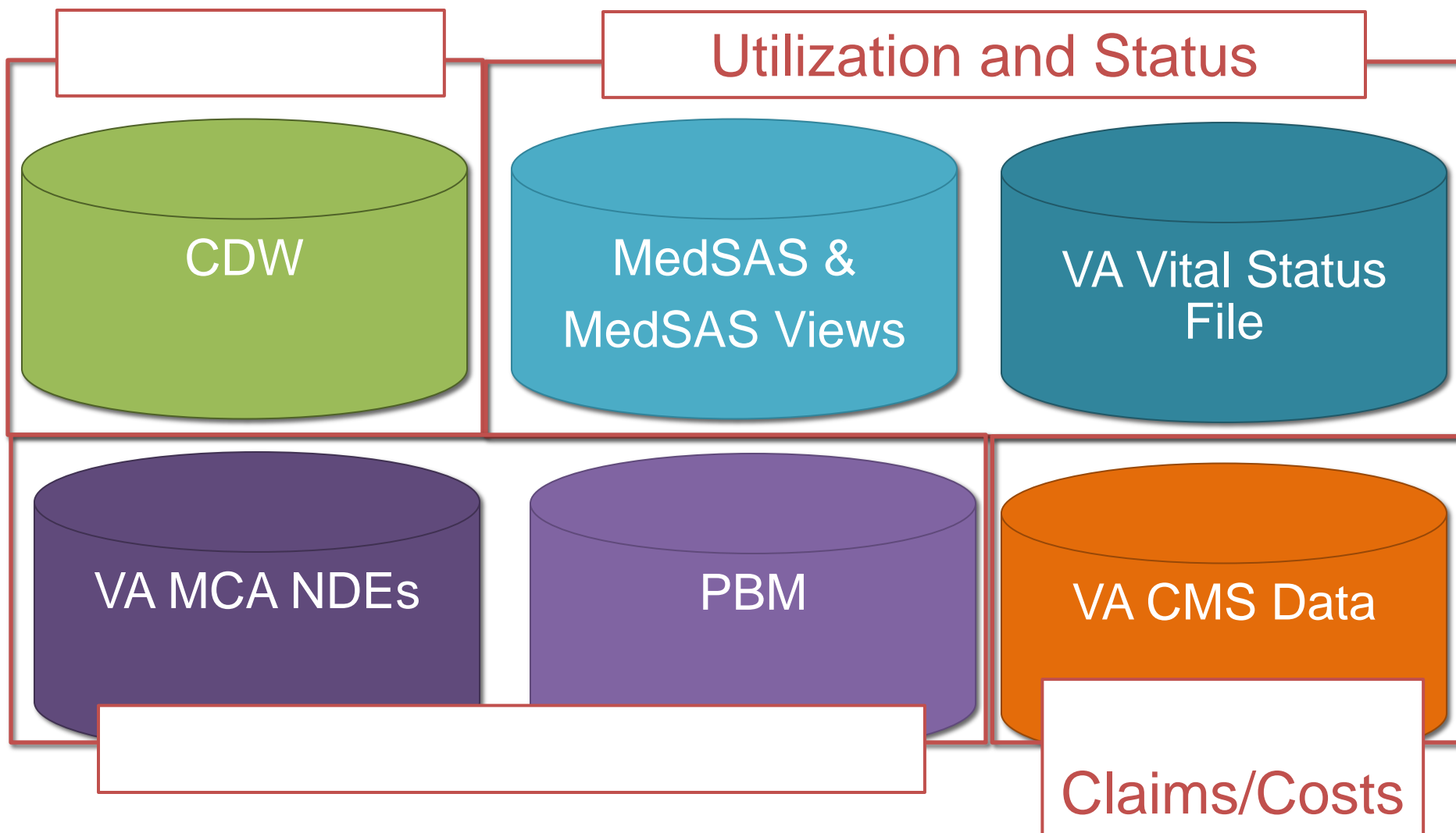
Mortality

Diagnosis/treatment

Patient care management

Appointments, Consults, Recall Reminders, Waitlists

Community care outside the VA

Primary care management

Providers

Healthcare providers, specialties

Locations of care

Facilities

Size, complexity scores

Reminder on commonly used VA data sources

Utilization and Status

CDW

MedSAS & MedSAS Views

VA Vital Status File

VA MCA NDEs

PBM

VA CMS Data

Claims/Costs

11/2017

Additional VA data sources - examples

Special populations

Prosthetics

Spinal Cord Injury

Traumatic Brain Injury

Oncology

Geriatrics

Mental Health

Department of Veterans Affairs
VHA Data Portal

[search box] 🔍

| Data Sources | Data Access | Tools & Applications | Resources | Training | Policy & Admin | Support |

VIReC — INTRANET

Search All VA Web Pages ▾
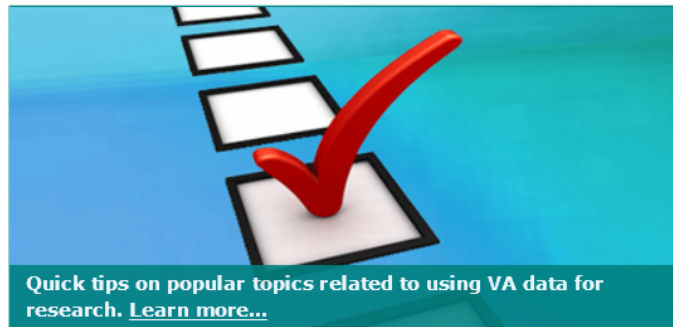[Search]
» Open Advanced Search
Report Broken Link

VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER (VIReC)

- VIReC Home
- VA/CMS Home
- About Us
- New Users of VA Data
- FAQs
- Acronyms
- HelpDesk
- Report Broken Link

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT VA DATA
HSRData Listserv

CURRENT VA DATA NEWS
Data Issues Brief

EXPERIENCES FROM THE FIELD
Researcher's Notebook

GATEWAY TO DATA RESOURCES

Quick tips on popular topics related to using VA data for research. **Learn more...**

- **Data Issues Brief, October 2017**
- **Upcoming Cyberseminars**
- **Real SSN Data Request Process**
- **VA REDCap Project**
- **Data Tip of the Month**

💬 New from VIReC

New CDW Factbooks
The latest CDW Factbooks contain technical, clinical, and/or procedural descriptions of tables, columns, and values.

- **LabChem 2.0 Domain**
- **Inpatient 3.0 Domain (Part I - Inpatient)**
- **Patient Associated 1.0 Domain**

The Researcher's Notebook #9
This issue is devoted to clarifying the diverse content found in the records of the three main tables of CDW's Outpatient Domains: Outpat.Visit, Outpat.Workload and Outpat.VisitLogic.

💼 VIReC Resources

Learn about VA data:
- ⊞ Data Sources
- ⊞ Data Topics
- ⊞ Data Tools

VA/CMS Data for Research Project: Data custodian for CMS and USRDS data for VA research.

Factbooks: Describe tables, columns, and values in select CDW Domains.

Research User Guides: Detailed information on select data sources, including variable descriptions.

Welcome to t

The VHA Data Portal pro... supports the needs of VHA... information from multiple s... a comprehensive knowled... user experience.

The one-stop-shop

Our home page design ha... information you need. Eac... access information and ot... data use need, or use the... resources by category. Te...

[New D...]

[Resea...]

[Opera... Improv...]

Session roadmap

5. VHA

Access Category?

6. Data access permission process?

7. Receive data

Department of Veterans Affairs
VHA Data Portal

| Data Sources | Data Access | Tools & Applications | Resources | Training | Policy & Admin | Support |

Welcome to the VHA Data Portal

The VHA Data Portal promotes a knowledge-sharing culture that supports the needs of VHA data users. The Portal integrates information from multiple sources into a single location to promote a comprehensive knowledge base and to facilitate a positive end-user experience.

The one-stop-shop for data users' needs.

Our home page design has recently changed to help get you the information you need. Each one of the badges below links to access information and other relevant resources for a particular data use need, or use the new top navigation menu to locate resources by category. Tell us what you think.

New Data User

Research

Operations & Quality Improvement

Upcoming Events

VIReC Cyberseminars

Nov 06: Requesting Approval for Access to VA Data (Kok, L)
Nov 21: Examining Women Veterans' Experiences and Perceptions of the Veterans Choice Program (Mattocks, K)
Dec 04: Measuring Veterans' Medicare Health Services Use (de Groot, K)

VINCI Cyberseminars

Nov 09: VINCI OMOP: Use and Aggregation of OMOP Standardized Vocabularies for Administrative Codes and Medications (Matheny, M)

VINCI Happy Hour

3rd Wednesday Every Month at 3 PM ET
VINCI in its continuing efforts to assist VHA data users will be holding its VINCI Happy Hour open question and answer forum every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 3:00PM to 4:00PM ET to field questions from our customers on a range of topics. Click here to join the Lync meeting and call 855-767-1051 code 22265684.

News

Tell VIReC your data story!

Department of Veterans Affairs
VHA Data Portal

Data Sources	Data Access	Tools & Applications	Resources	Training	Policy & Admin	Support

Data Access ▸ Research Access

Research Access

🔍 Overview

VHA Researchers can request access to VHA data sources and data access tools for a research protocol approved by a VA Research and Development (R&D) Committee and reviewed by an Institutional Review Board (IRB). VHA data, along with other types of health information, enable VHA investigators to conduct groundbreaking research that improves the delivery of health care to Veterans and the general public.

Note: The following resources provide information on determining whether a VHA operations activity constitutes research:

- Research vs Operations Decision Tool
- *VHA Handbook 1058.05: VHA Operations Activities That May Constitute Research* (Oct 2011)

📋 Types of Data Access

Expand the options below to learn more about the types of VHA data access available for approved research projects.

[+ Expand All]

⊞ Direct Access

⊞ Data Extracts

📋 Requesting Access

Access to data sources and data access tools is available through several request processes, including:

- Patient Care Services (PCS) Request Process
- Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) Request Process

Did You Know?

Research data users may request access to CDW data with either real or scrambled SSNs. There are specific additional access requirements for Vital Status and DSS NDE data domains.

Research Access

Overview
Access
Data Sources

Tips for Requestors

Research data users do not access CDW data directly. CDW Data Managers prepare data extracts that can be used in the VINCI environment or on local VHA network servers as indicated.

11/2017

📄 *Data Source Request Processes*

Expand a data source in the list below to view an outline of its data request process.

[+ Expand All]

⊞ ADUSH Enrollment Files

⊞ AITC Mainframe

⊞ BIRLS Death File

⊞ CDW Data

↗ HERC Cost Data

↗ Homeless Registry

⊞ MCA (formerly DSS) NDEs

⊞ MCA (formerly DSS) Web Reports

⊞ Medical SAS Inpatient & Outpatient Data Sets

⊞ Non-VA Medical Care (formerly Fee Basis) Files

⊞ NPPD

⊞ OEF/OIF/OND Roster

⊞ Pi2

⊞ PBM Database

⊞ PSSG Geocoded Enrollee Files

⊞ VA/CMS Data for Research

⊞ VETSNET File

⊞ Vital Status File

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Expand a data source in the list below to view an outline of its data request proces[...]

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⊞ VETSNET File

⊞ Vital Status File

⊞ VSSC Web Reports

⊟ CDW D[...]

Data Source	Level of Access	Identifier	Data Format	Type of Access	Request Process
CDW Data	National	Real, scrambled SSN or no SSN	SQL	Extract	DART Request Process
BIRLS Death File	National	Combined Real and Scrambled SSN	SQL*	Extract	DART Request Process
MCA (formerly DSS) NDEs	National	Real or Scrambled SSN or Patient SID	SQL†	Extract	DART Request Process
MCA (formerly DSS) NDEs	National, VISN, Local	Real or Scrambled SSN	SAS†,‡	Extract	DART Request Process
Medical SAS	National, VISN, Local	Real SSN or Scrambled SSN	SQL*	Extract	DART Request Process
VETSNET	National, VISN, Local	Real or Scrambled SSN	SQL*	Extract	DART Request Process
Vital Status File	National	Scrambled SSN	SQL	Extract	DART Request Process
Vital Status File	National	Real SSN Crosswalk	SQL	Extract	DART Request Process

* Copies of Mainframe SAS Data Sets in SQL Format.
† Although DSS is now known as MCA, the SQL tables for the MCA NDEs within CDW are under a DSS Schema and still use the DSS name (Example: Dss.ALBCC).
‡ MCA NDE legacy SAS Data Sets.

The Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW) page provides more information about this data source.

📄 *Tools Request Processes*

Expand a data access tool in the list below to view an outline of its access request process.

+ Expand All

⊞ AITC Mainframe Workspace

Home   About Us   Contact Us   FAQ   Report Broken Link

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VHA Data Portal

| Data Sources | Data Access | Tools & Applications | Resources | Training | Policy & Admin | Support |

Data Access ▸ Operations Access

Did You Know?

Operational Access request include users who require access for Treatment, Payment, and/or Healthcare Operations. Operations access and Non-Research access is synonymous.

Operations Access

Overview
Access
Data Sources

Tips for Requestors

The ePAS NDS User Guide will provide step-by-step instructions on requesting Operational access.

Operations & Quality Improvement Access

🐾 Overview

VA or VHA employees or contractors who require broader access to data in the performance of their official duties under the treatment, payment, and/or healthcare operations provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) can request access to the data required to perform their jobs. This includes quality assessment and improvement, operational reporting, auditing and general administrative duties.

Note: The following resources provide information on determining whether a VHA operations activity constitutes research.

- Research vs Operations Decision Tool
- *VHA Handbook 1058.05: VHA Operations Activities That May Constitute Research* (Oct 2011)
- Operations Data Access Policy 📄

🔒 Requesting Access

Access to data sources and data access tools is available through several request processes.

- Patient Care Services (PCS) Request Process
- Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) Request Process
- Local Customer User Provisioning System (CUPS) POC Request Process
- Medicare and Medicaid Analysis Center (MAC) Request Process
- VINCI Workspace Request Process

- The following processes are managed by National Data Systems:

  - CAPRI / VistAWeb Request Process
  - Healthcare Operational Request Process

Determining which process to use for requesting access depends on the data source or data access tool:

- Expand a source or tool in the lists below for an outline of its access request process.
- ⊞ View Terms and Definitions used in the these outlines.

Note: Operational data users generally receive direct access to VHA data.

📄 Data Source Request Processes

Expand a data source in the list below to view an outline of its data request process.

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Expand a data source in the list below to view an outline of its data request proc

`+ Expand All`

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⊞ PSSG Geocoded Enrollee Files

⊞ VA/CMS Data for Operations

⊞ VETSNET File

⊞ Vital Status File

⊞ VSSC Web Reports

📄 Tools Request Processes

Expand a data access tool in the list below to view an outline of its access

`+ Expand All`

⊞ AITC Mainframe Workspace

⊟ CDW Data

| Data Source	Level of Access	Identifier	Data Format	Request Process

CDW Data	National	Basic Read Access (AD Group: CDW Full) – permits access to every extracted table on CDW except:
		• CDW Production tables
		  • SPatient.Spatient
		  • SPatient.Spatient Address
		  • SStaff.SStaff
		• CDW-RAW tables
		  • MCA (formerly DSS) NDE tables *
		
		NOTE: VHA Scrambled SSNs and Real SSNs for patients are available only in the SPatient.SPatient table.
			SQL	Healthcare Operations Request Process

CDW Data	National	Privileged Read Access (AD Group: CDW SPatient)- permits access to every extracted table on CDW including:
		• CDW Production
		  • SPatient.SPatient
		  • SPatient.Spatient Address tables
		• CDW-RAW
		  • MCA (formerly DSS) NDE tables (Scrambled SSNs) *
		
		NOTE: Does not permit access to CDW Production table SStaff.SStaff.
			SQL	Healthcare Operations Request Process

CDW Data	National	Staff Read Access (AD Group: CDW SStaff) – permits access to every extracted table on CDW Production and CDW-RAW including CDW Production table SStaff.SStaff	SQL	Healthcare Operations Request Process
BIRLS Death File	National	Combined Real and Scrambled SSN	SAS †	Healthcare Operations Request Process
MCA (formerly DSS) NDEs	National	Real or Scrambled SSN or Patient SID	SQL	Healthcare Operations Request Process
MCA (formerly DSS) NDEs	National	Real or Scrambled SSN	SAS ‡	Healthcare Operations Request Process
Medical SAS	National	Real SSN or Scrambled SSN	SAS †	Healthcare Operations Request Process
VETSNET	National	Real or Scrambled SSN	SAS †	Healthcare Operations Request Process
Vital Status File	National	Scrambled SSN	SQL	Healthcare Operations Request Process
Vital Status File	National	Real SSN Crosswalk	SQL	Healthcare Operations Request Process

What?

VHA data access requests: *It's complicated!*

Complex Data Organization

- Data use purposes
- Sources
- Host/storage venues
- Record identifiers
- Stewards/ data access managers
- Formats
- Analysis platforms
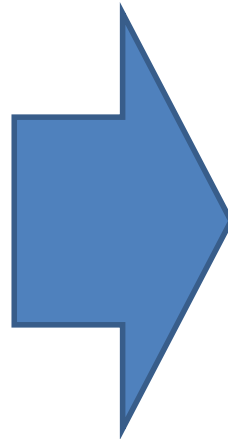
Complex Access Request Processes

- Types of user privileges
- Multiple request approval processes, forms and documents
- Multiple access & delivery processes

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What do you need to know?

- ❑ VHA data access category - data use
- ❑ Record identifier required
- ❑ Number of facilities included in project data
- ❑ Where data are hosted and stored
- ❑ Requirements and approval processes
- ❑ Platform/venue where you will manage and analyze data
- ❑ How you will receive/access your approved data
- ❑ Data formats

5. VHA Data Access Category?

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VHA Data Portal

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Data Access ▸ Data Ac

Quick View

VHA grants access to d
and information systems
based on the data a
going to be used.

Data Access Overview

Operations Access

Preparatory to Research Access

Research Access

Medical Advisory Opinions
Access

Veterans Service Officers Access

ata Access

and information systems based on how the data will be used. Data access request processes and types of data access granted (e.g., direct access, data extracts, read-only views) depend on the data access category.

▤ How do I request data for research and operations purposes?

VHA maintains patient health information and other data used for a variety of purposes, such as program administration, healthcare quality improvement, program evaluation, and research. Select a category below for information about requesting data access or consult the Research vs Operations Decision Tool for additional guidance.

- Operations Access: VHA employees and contractors require access to data and information systems for healthcare quality assessments, operational reporting, auditing, planning, forecasting, and general administrative duties.

- Research Access: VHA researchers with VA approved research protocols require access to data and information systems to conduct research.

- Preparatory to Research Access: VHA researchers preparing research proposals require access to data and information systems to determine the feasibility of a proposed study and to demonstrate its significance.
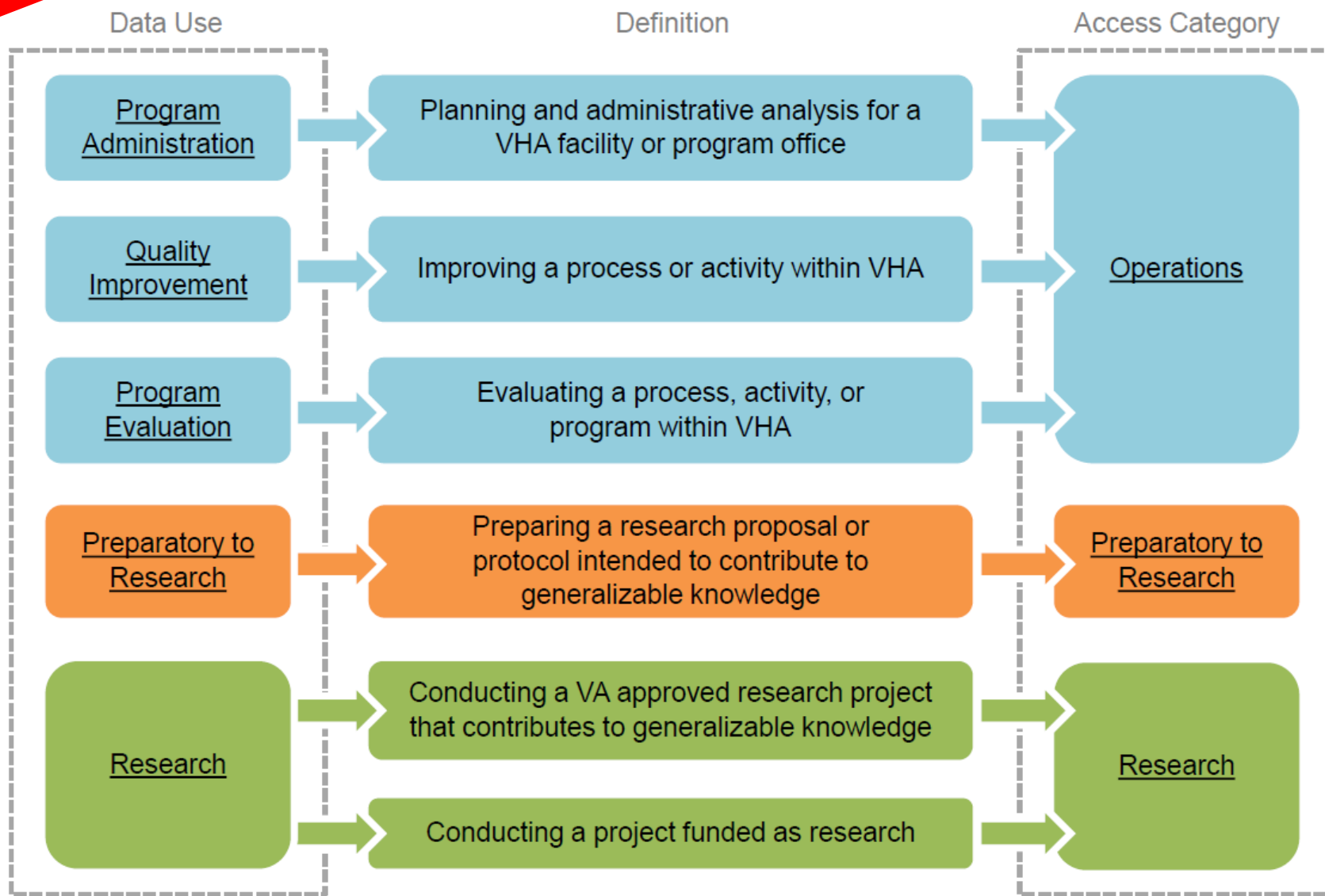
▤ How do I access data for medical advisory reviews?

VISNs and VHA practitioners require access to electronic health records to assist and cooperate with medical advisory reviews requested by VA Regional Counsels. Visit the Medical Advisory Opinions Access page for instructions.

▤ How do I request data access for Veteran Service Organizations?

Authorized VSO representatives require read-only access to electronic health records to help Veterans prepare claims for VA

Access Category Finder

Decision Tool

Data Use	Definition	Access Category
Program Administration	Planning and administrative analysis for a VHA facility or program office	Operations
Quality Improvement	Improving a process or activity within VHA	
Program Evaluation	Evaluating a process, activity, or program within VHA	
Preparatory to Research	Preparing a research proposal or protocol intended to contribute to generalizable knowledge	Preparatory to Research
Research	Conducting a VA approved research project that contributes to generalizable knowledge	Research
	Conducting a project funded as research	

http://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/Access/Research-vs-Operations-Decision-Tool.pdf

6. Data access permission process?

What do you need to know?

- ✓ VHA data access category - data use
- ❑ Record identifier required
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- ❑ Platform/venue where you will manage and analyze data
- ❑ How you will receive/access your approved data
- ❑ Data formats

What do you need to know?

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- ❑ Requirements and approval processes
- ❑ Platform/venue where you will manage and analyze data
- ❑ How you will receive/access your approved data
- ❑ Data formats

Record identifier required

Identifiers	Reasons driving choice/selection
• VA's scrambled SSN • Real SSN • ICN • CMS Beneficiary ID	• Data only available with one type • Link to primary data collection • Need to link to non-VA data • Only CDW data being used

Number/location of facilities included in project data

- Local – Your local VA healthcare facility/medical center

- VISN - Facilities only within your VISN

- National – Any facilities outside your VISN
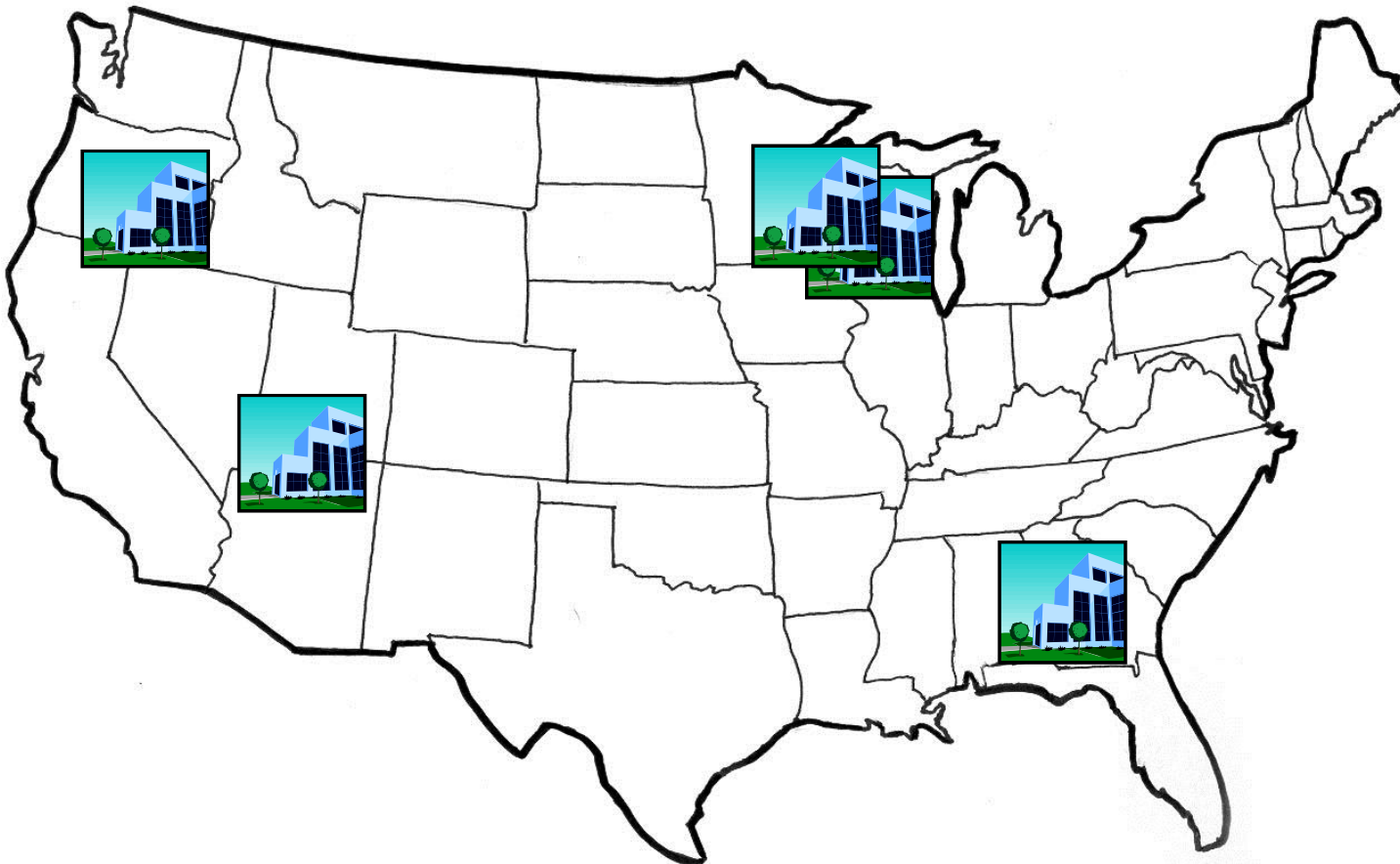
Where VHA data are hosted and stored

CDW

AITC mainframe

VHA program offices

PBM

CAPRI & JLV

VINCI

MAC

VIReC

VSSC

What do you need to know?

- ✓ VHA data access category - data use
- ✓ Record identifier required
- ✓ Number of facilities included in project data
- ✓ Where data are hosted and stored
- ❑ Requirements and approval processes
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What do you need to know?

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Typical standard requirements specific to data access category

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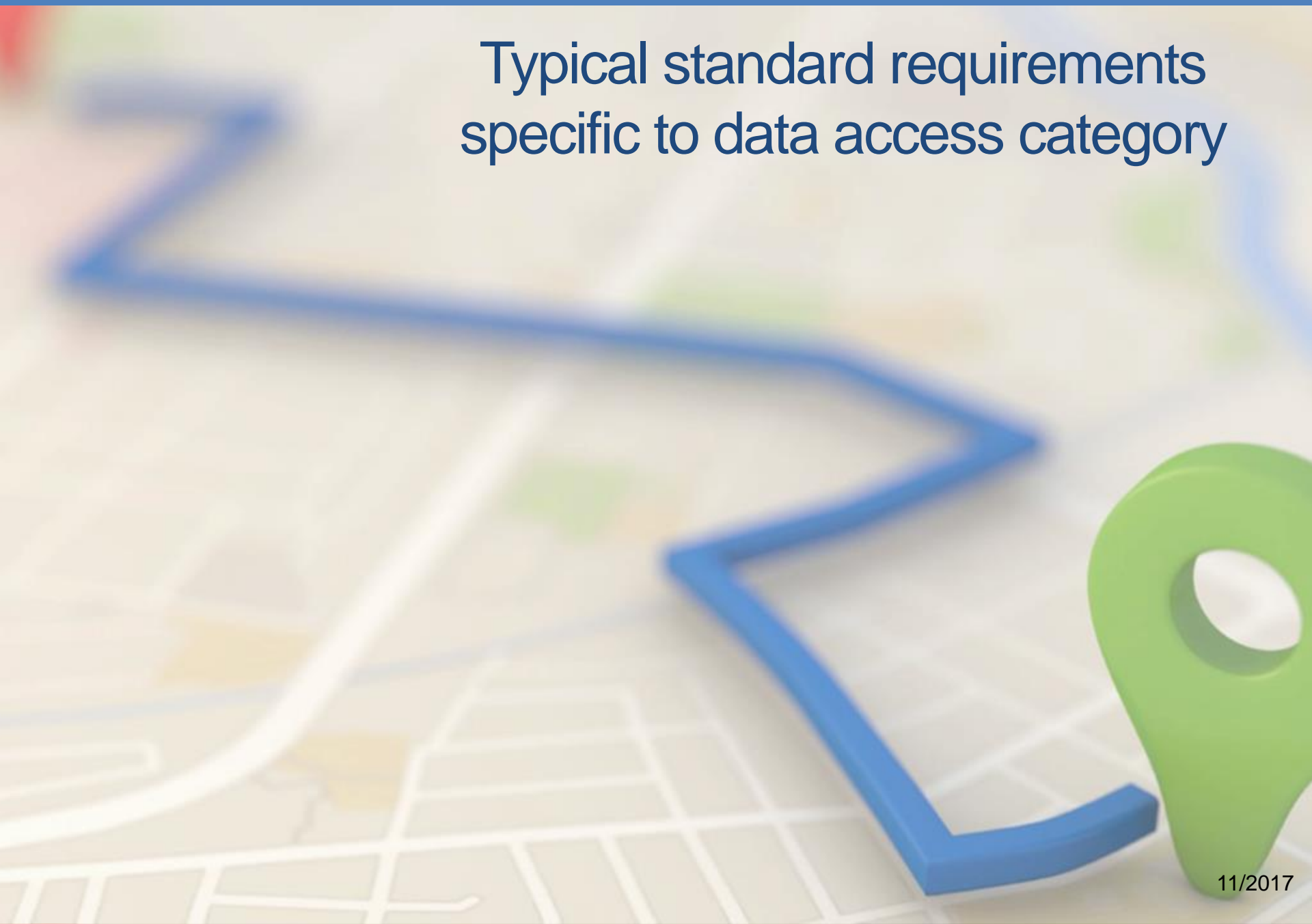
Standard Requirements: Operations

Online application

- Supervisor approval

- ISO approval

Standard Requirements: Research

Project documents and approvals

- Research Study Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval letter(s)

- Research and Development Committee approval letter(s)

- Research study protocol

- Where required by IRB or ORD

  - Sample Informed Consent or Waiver of Informed Consent

  - IRB Approved HIPAA Authorization or Waiver of HIPAA Authorization

  - Real SSN Access Request Form

Standard Requirements: Preparatory to Research Memo

Information

- The proposed topic/ protocol name

- Data access timeframe

- Brief summary of the study objectives

- Explanation of the intended use of the data to prepare the proposal:

Affirmations

- Requesting access only to develop a research proposal/protocol

- Only aggregate data will be recorded and only used for background information;

  - Individually identifiable information will not be recorded (retained);

  - Data reviewed will not be used for contacting or recruiting subjects;

  - Data will not be reused for any other purpose

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Requirements specific to data access manager
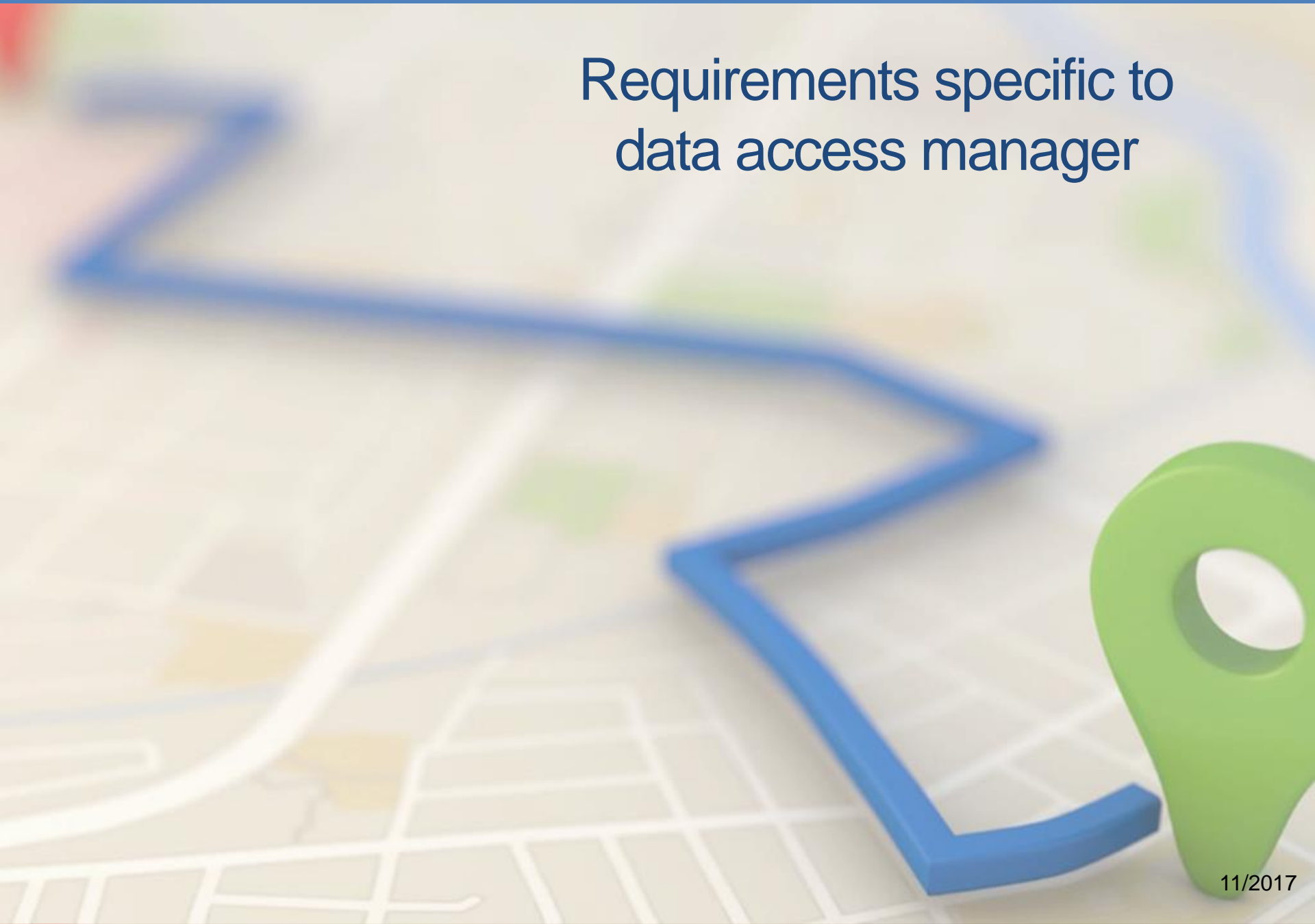
Examples - Data access managers & sources

NDS (DART)
- CDW
- MCA NDEs
- MedSAS Real SSN

VIReC
- Medicare
- Medicaid

PBM
- Pharmacy Rx Fills

PCS
- Prosthetics
- Spinal Cord Injury
- RAIMDS data

CUPS POC
- MedSAS – mainframe Scrambled SSN
- VSSC Scrambled SSN

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Research: Ex. NDS DART forms on Data Portal – research

- Research Request Memo

Memorandum

Department of Veterans Affairs

Date:

From: Principal Investigator   "Insert Name of Principal Investigator"

Subj: Research Data Request Memo for: "Tracking Number - Name of Protocol"

To: Director, National Data Systems

The following information is required and all signatures must be obtained before any review of this request can take place:

Are all participants requesting access a VA employees or WOC employees? ☐Yes ☐No
Is this request for data use for a VA research study (includes pilot studies)?: ☐Yes ☐No
Is this request for activities preparatory to research? ☐Yes ☐No
Select the type(s) of data needed: ☐Real SSN ☐Scrambled SSN ☐PHI but No SSN
Is access to CAPRI / VistAWeb being requested? ☐Yes ☐No
Is AITC Main Frame access being requested? ☐Yes ☐No
Is access to VSSC and/or MCA Web Reports being requested? ☐Yes ☐No
Will any requested data be transferred outside of the VA? ☐Yes ☐No
Will the data be stored in the VINCI Environment? ☐Yes ☐No ☐Both

Please describe the data you are requesting. The data requested must reflect data discussed in the protocol or HIPAA waiver if applicable and selected in DART.

http://vaww.v

11/2017

Research: Ex. NDS DART data source forms

REQUESTED DATA SOURCES

Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW)

SQL Format

- ☑ CDW Production Do
- ☑ CDW Raw Domains
- ☐ CDW MCA (formerly
- ☐ MedSAS Files includ
- ☑ TIU Text Notes (Req
- ☐ Vital Status Files (in

Mainframe - Access

- ☐ BIRLS Real SSN (110JJ02)
- ☑ MedSAS including VetsNet Files for National Level Real SSN (1100TT01)

CDW DOMAIN CHECKLIST

Research Protocols typically request data from the CDW Patient Domain within the Patien

CD

Department of Veterans Affairs	RESEARCH ACCESS TO VHA ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

User Information

1. Last Name, First Name, Middle Name, Suffix
2. VA E-Mail Address
3. Job Title
4. Work Phone (Include Area Code)
5. Station (Facility) Number
6. Full Social Security Number
7. Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)
8. ISO Name
9. ISO E-Mail Address
10. Protocol Name
11. DART Tracking Number
12. IRB Approv

- ☐ CAPRI
- ☐ Joint Le
- ☐ National
- ☐ Site Rest

By signing be
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NAME OF INDIV

RULES OF BEHAVIOR FOR ACCESS AND USE OF DATA
FROM VHA VITAL STATUS FILES

The following rules of behavior apply to everyone,
e.g., VHA employees, contractors, and business partners, with access to data
from the VHA Vital Status File from National Data Systems.

The VHA Vital Status File (VSF) contains data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that have been provided for use in the VHA. These CMS data contain sensitive information including the personal health information of Veterans and non-Veterans. CMS can revoke the privilege for use of all Medicare data within VA for any loss or misuse of this data and as such, have the potential to cause great risk to Veterans, employees and the Agency.

Because of this risk, users must take a heightened responsibility for protection of the data and because written guidance cannot cover every contingency, personnel are asked to go beyond the stated rules, using their best judgment and highest ethical standards to guide their actions.

Operations: QI, PE data request : Ex. NDS ePAS

OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY

VHA NDS Access Form for Health Care Operations perations - online ePAS form

Please click on the link for further guidance on completing this form: NDS ePAS User Request Guide

| Request | Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW) | VSSC and MCA Web Reports | Mainframe Access | CAPRI / VistAWeb | Comments |

Employee Information

Full Legal Name: Kok (Last Name) Linda (First Name) (Middle Initial)

Job Title:

Email Address: Linda.Kok@va.gov

Active Directory Name with Domain: VHA12\VHAHINKokL

Work Telephone Number:

Employee Agency: Choose an item

Employee Type: Choose an item

...mber:

Approver Information

...visor: (Name) (Email)

Lookup Supervisor...

ISO Verification Information

Information Security Officer: (Name) (Email)

Lookup ISO... ISO Locator

Purpose of Use

Purpose of Use:
☐ Payment
☐ Treatment
☐ Healthcare Operations
☐ Oversight Activities (OIG Use Only)
☐ Audit & Evaluation Activities
☐ Cost Analysis
☐ Other

Data Sources

☑ Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW)
☑ VSSC and MCA Web Reports
☑ Mainframe Access
☐ Operation Enduring Freedom / Operation Iraqi Freedom / Operation New Dawn Roster
☑ CAPRI / VistAWeb

Duration of Access

Duration of Access: Choose an item

Acknowledgement

By signing below, I affirm that I will notify National Data Systems (NDS) of any change to the requestor's position or duties as related to the requestor's access. I also affirm that the requestor will stay current on the required training to view Protected Health Information. I acknowledge that all data handling practice will be in accordance with the CDW Best Practice Guide. For the duration of this use, the requestor will use the provided CDW environment (the National server environment at the VA Austin Information Technology Center(AITC), the Regional, and VISN servers at the Regional Data Center, the VINCI environment) for this data. Data will only be removed in the form of reports. I acknowledge the data requested will only be used for Operational activities and not Research activities. For additional guidance, please refer to the following link on what constitutes operations and research activities: http://www.va.gov/ORO/Docs/Guidance/1058_05_Non_Research_Operations_Chart_01_24_2012.pdf. It is the responsibility of BOTH the user and the supervisor to ensure the VA Privacy & Information Security & Awareness & Rules of Behavior (VA10176) and Privacy and HIPAA Focus Training (VA10203) training is completed annually.

Affirmation:

☐ By checking this check box, I affirm that I have read and understood the above. I certify that this access will not be used for research activities.I understand my responsibilities. I will comply with the rules of behavior for the use of VA/CMS data.

Privacy Act Statement

Privacy Act Statement

For additional guidance regarding Purpose of Use, please click on the following link:
http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/coveredentities/usesanddisclosuresfortpo.html

Research: VIReC VA/CMS standard forms - email

VA/CMS DATA FOR RESEARCH

VIReC

PROJECT INFORMATION AND AUTHORIZATION

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VA/CMS DATA FOR RESEARCH

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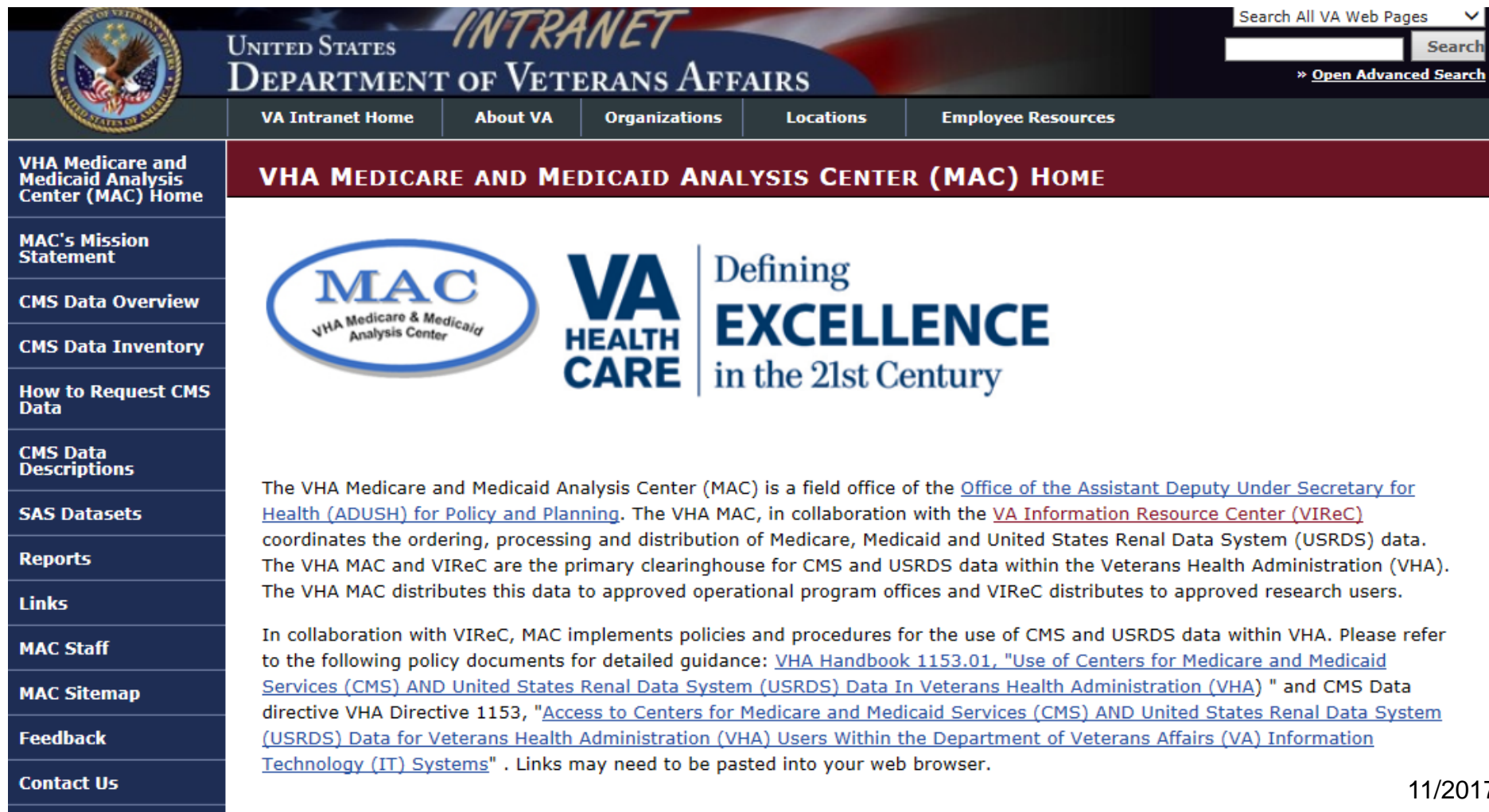
VA/CMS DATA FOR RESEARCH

DATA DESCRIPTION
CMS/USRDS Data for Veterans Only

Operations: MAC VA/CMS process

- http://vaww.va.gov/medicareanalysis/

Research: PBM Data Request

Provides custom data extracts for research

Pharmacy Benefits Management
Strategic Health Care Group
Research Data Request

The following must be done to obtain PBM v.3 pharmacy data for research purposes:

1. Mail a copy of the IRB approval form and a summary of the study protocol to the following address:

Attn: Cheryl Benson (119D)
Pharmacy Benefits Management
1st Ave. - 1 Block N. of Cermak Rd.
Bldg 37 Rm 139
Hines, IL 60141

2. Complete and submit the form that appears when you click the button below:

Submit

QI & PE & Research: Patient Care Services Process

- Requirements include:
  - Data Transfer Agreement (DTA)
  - Brief description of the study
  - List of variables and fields needed & justification
  - PCS Data Security Checklist

- Data request forms and data dictionaries are available on the PCS SharePoint site – different DTA forms for each category

  http://vaww.infoshare.va.gov/sites/OSPM/default.aspx

- **Point of contact** for DUA requests: Julie Strickland

- **Questions:** VHA10P4PCSDR@VA.GOV

11/2017

Operations & Research: CUPS POC - Form 9957

Where required:

- Scrambled SSN
  - Mainframe MedSAS
  - VSSC Web Reports
  - ADUSH Enrollment - Mainframe
- Real SSN
  - Local MedSAS on Mainframe

Department of Veterans Affairs
VHA Data Portal

| Data Sources | Data Access | Tools & Applications | Resources | Training | Policy & Admin | Support |

Welcome to the VHA Data Portal

The VHA Data Portal promotes a knowledge-sharing culture that supports the needs of VHA data users. The Portal integrates information from multiple sources into a single location to promote a comprehensive knowledge base and to facilitate a positive end-user experience.

The one-stop-shop for data users' needs.

Our home page design has recently changed to help get you the information you need. Each one of the badges below links to access information and other relevant resources for a particular data use need, or use the new top navigation menu to locate resources by category. Tell us what you think.

New Data User

Research

Operations & Quality Improvement

Upcoming Events

VIReC Cyberseminars

Nov 06: Requesting Approval for Access to VA Data (Kok, L)
Nov 21: Examining Women Veterans' Experiences and Perceptions of the Veterans Choice Program (Mattocks, K)
Dec 04: Measuring Veterans' Medicare Health Services Use (de Groot, K)

VINCI Cyberseminars

Nov 09: VINCI OMOP: Use and Aggregation of OMOP Standardized Vocabularies for Administrative Codes and Medications (Matheny, M)

VINCI Happy Hour

3rd Wednesday Every Month at 3 PM ET
VINCI in its continuing efforts to assist VHA data users will be holding its VINCI Happy Hour open question and answer forum every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 3:00PM to 4:00PM ET to field questions from our customers on a range of topics. Click here to join the Lync meeting and call 855-767-1051 code 22265684.

News

Tell VIReC your data story!

Session roadmap

7. Receive data

What do you need to know?

- ✓ VHA data access category - data use
- ✓ Record identifier required
- ✓ Number of facilities included in project data
- ✓ Where data are hosted and stored
- ✓ Requirements and approval processes
- ❑ Platform/venue where you will manage and analyze data
- ❑ How you will receive/access your approved data
- ❑ Data formats

Where will you manage and analyze data?

Examples

Data Source	Research	Operations	Prep to Research
Data on CDW- all	VINCI/ Download	CDW Workspace/ Download	VINCI
Data on Mainframe	Mainframe/ Download	Mainframe/ Download	Mainframe/ Download
CMS Data	VINCI/ SAS Grid/ Download	VINCI/ Download	Contact VIReC
PBM Data	Download	Download	Contact PBM
PCS Data	Download	Download	Contact PCS

Download = Transfer to the server/center approved for your local facility   11/2017

Receiving/accessing your approved data

Direct access to full datasets or domains

Operations access to domains needed

Access on AITC mainframe

Receive data views or extracts of study cohort data

Defining and refining your cohort

Selecting records that match your final cohort

VINCI Workspace

CDW transfer server – for you to pull into your local server

Standard data formats - Examples

NDS Managed Data

- **CDW**
  - SQL

- **Mainframe**
  - SAS

MAC/VIReC CMS Data

- SAS

PCS & PBM

- SAS

11/2017
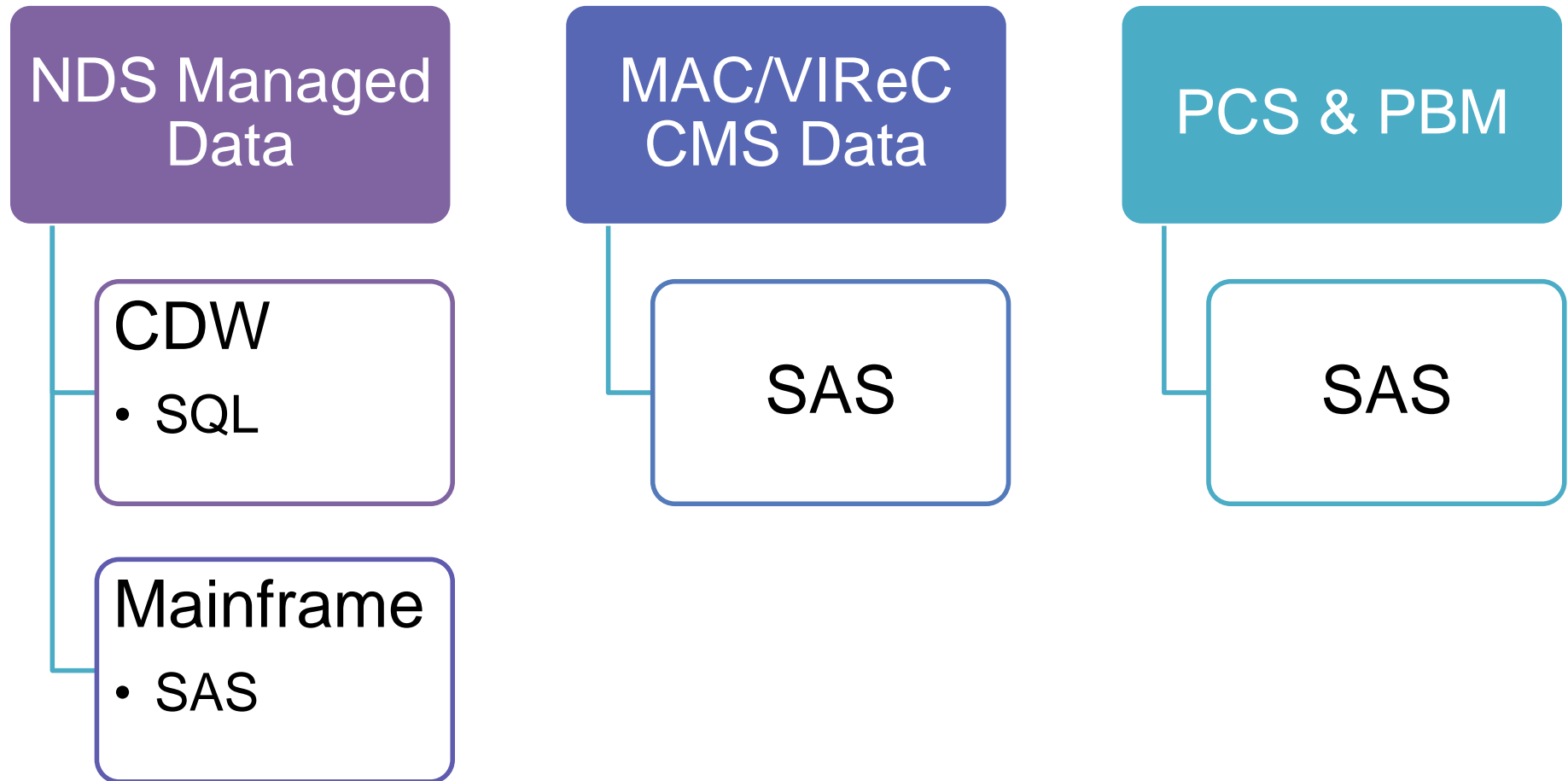
What do you need to know to get started?

- ✓ VHA data access category - data use
- ✓ Record identifier required
- ✓ Number of facilities included in project data
- ✓ Where data are hosted and stored
- ✓ Requirements and approval processes
- ✓ Platform/venue where you will manage and analyze data
- ✓ How you will receive/access your approved data
- ✓ Data formats

Resources for your journey

Department of Veterans Affairs
VHA Data Portal

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News

Tell VIReC your data story!

vaww.virec.research.va.gov

http://vaww.vhadataportal.med.va.gov

VA network only

News & new resources

Resources for working with data

VA network only

Collaborative with NDS & VINCI

Data source & access information

www.virec.research.va.gov

Public-facing

VIReC overview

Publications & events

Cyberseminars

11/2017

VIReC options for specific questions

HSRData Listserv	HelpDesk

- Community knowledge sharing

- ~1,200 VA data users

- Researchers, operations, data stewards, managers

- Subscribe by visiting http://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/Support/HSRData-L.htm (VA Intranet)

- Individualized support

virec@va.gov

(708) 202-2413

Quick links for VA data resources

Quick Guide: Resources for Using VA Data
http://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/Toolkit/QG-Resources-for-Using-VA-Data.pdf (VA Intranet)

VIReC: http://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/Index.htm (VA Intranet)

VIReC Cyberseminars: http://www.virec.research.va.gov/Resources/Cyberseminars.asp

VHA Data Portal: http://vaww.vhadataportal.med.va.gov/Home.aspx (VA Intranet)

VINCI: http://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/vincicentral/ (VA Intranet)

Health Economics Resource Center (HERC): http://vaww.herc.research.va.gov (VA Intranet)

CDW: https://vaww.cdw.va.gov/Pages/CDWHome.aspx (VA Intranet)

Archived cyberseminar: What can the HSR&D Resource Centers do for you?
http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/for_researchers/cyber_seminars/archives/video_archive.cfm?SessionID=101

Contact information

Linda Kok, MA

Privacy & Security Liaison

VA Information Resource Center

Hines VA Hospital

virec@va.gov

708-202-2413

Next session:
December 4, 2017

Database & Methods Cyberseminar Series

VA Medicare Data (VA/CMS)

Kristin de Groot, MPH

VA Information Resource Center

VIReC
RESEARCHERS' GUIDE TO VA DATA

Acronyms and Abbreviations: Data Sources

- **CDW:** Corporate Data Warehouse
- **MedSAS:** VA Medical Files in Statistical Analysis Systems (SAS) format
- **VSF:** VA Vital Status File
- **PBM:** Pharmacy Benefits Management System Data
- **MCA NDEs:** Managerial Cost Accounting National Data Extracts (formerly DSS Decision Support Systems NDEs)
- **VA/CMS:** Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Data for VA use
- **NPPD:** National Prosthetics Patient Database
- **PCS:** Patient Care Services Datasets
- **SCS:** Specialty Care Services Datasets
- **SDR:** Suicide Data Repository
- **HERC:** Health Economics Resource Center Cost Data and Web Reports
- **TIU Notes:** Ben: Text Integrated Units (Progress notes, etc.)
- **BIRLS:** Beneficiary Identification Records Locator Subsystem Death File
- **CAPRI:** Compensation & Pension Record Interchange Application (VHA Electronic Health Record)
- **JLV:** Joint Legacy Viewer – Electronic Health Records for VA and Department of Defense and Community Partners
- **CAN Scores:** Care Assessment Need Scores
- **OEF/OIF/OND Roster File:** Operation Enduring Freedom / Operation Iraqi Freedom / Operation New Dawn (Post 2001)
- **SQDUG:** Surgery Quality Data User Group Data (CDW Surgery Domain data)
- **VSSC:** VHA Support Service Center Web Reports & Data Cubes
- **ADUSH:** Associate Deputy Under Secretary for Health Enrollment Files
- **PSSG:** Planning Systems Support Group Geocoded Enrollee Files
- **VETSNET:** Veterans Services Network Corporate Mini Master File

Acronyms and Abbreviations: Data Stewards & Access Managers

- **NDS:** National Data Systems
- **PBM:** Pharmacy Benefits Management Office
- **PCS:** Patient Care Services
- **SCS:** Specialty Care Services
- **MAC:** ADUSH OPP Medicare Analysis Center
- **VIReC:** VA Information Resource Center
- **CUPS POC:** Customer User Provisioning System Point of Contact (at each facility)