



Database & Methods Cyberseminar Series

Overview of VA Data, Information Systems, National Databases & Research Uses

October 2, 2017

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Database & Methods Cyberseminar Series

Informational seminars to help VA researchers access and use VA databases.

Topics

- VA data sources & data access systems
- Application of VA data to research and quality improvement questions
- Limitations of secondary data use
- Resources to support VA data use



FY '18 Database & Methods Schedule

First Monday of the month* | 1:00pm-2:00pm ET

Date	Topic
10/2/2017	Overview of VA Data & Research Uses
11/6/2017	Requesting Access to VA Data
12/4/2017	VA Medicare Data (VA/CMS)
1/8/2018*	Mortality Ascertainment & Cause of Death
2/5/2018	Assessing Race & Ethnicity
3/5/2018	TBD
4/2/2018	Pharmacy Data
5/7/2018	VA Healthcare Utilization
6/4/2018	TBD
7/9/2018*	TBD
9/10/2018*	Comorbidity Measures Using VA & CMS Data

Visit our Education page for more information & registration links.

www.virec.research.va.gov



Database & Methods Cyberseminar Series

Session 1: Overview of VA Data, Information Systems, National Databases & Research Uses

Today's objective

The purpose of this cyberseminar is to provide an introduction to VA data and resources for using it effectively.

Session roadmap

- Introduction to VIREC
- Overview of the VA data environment
- Highlights of commonly used VA data sources
- Platforms & tools for using data
- Where to go for more help

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



Session roadmap

- Introduction to VIREC
- Overview of the VA data environment
- Highlights of commonly used VA data sources
- Platforms & tools for using data
- Where to go for more help

Meet VIREC

Mission

To advance VA capacity to use data effectively for research and quality improvement and to foster communication between data users and the VA healthcare community.

Activities

DEVELOP

data knowledge and methods

Factbooks and User Guides
 Summary information
 Technical documentation
 Cyberseminars
 (hosted by CIDER)

DISSEMINATE

data knowledge

Intranet website
 VHA Data Portal
 (collaboration with NDS & VINCI)
 HelpDesk 1:1 consultation
 HSRData Listserv

IMPROVE

data access and availability

Advocate on national
 committees & workgroups
 Real SSN request reviews
 VA/CMS Data for Research
 VA REDCap

Session roadmap

- Introduction to VIREC
- Overview of the VA data environment
- Highlights of commonly used VA data sources
- Platforms & tools for using data
- Where to go for more help

Activities that generate VA data

- Administrative / Operations activities
- Clinical care / Patient records
- Financial recordkeeping
- Veteran surveys & patient portals
- Patient care outside the VA system

Veterans Health Information Systems & Technology Architecture (VistA)

- Integrated system of software applications
- Directly supports patient care at Veterans Health Administration (VHA) healthcare facilities
- Source of data for many VHA datasets or databases



Commonly used VA data sources



VA Corporate
Data Warehouse
(CDW)



VA Medical SAS
(MedSAS)



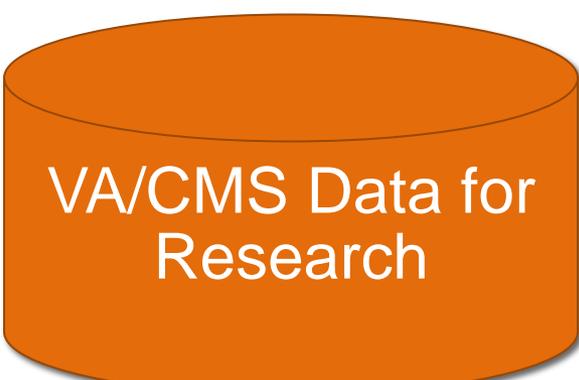
VA Vital Status
File



VA MCA National
Clinical Data



VA Pharmacy
Data



VA/CMS Data for
Research

Commonly used VA data sources

EHR/VistA

VA Corporate
Data Warehouse
(CDW)

VA Medical SAS
(MedSAS)

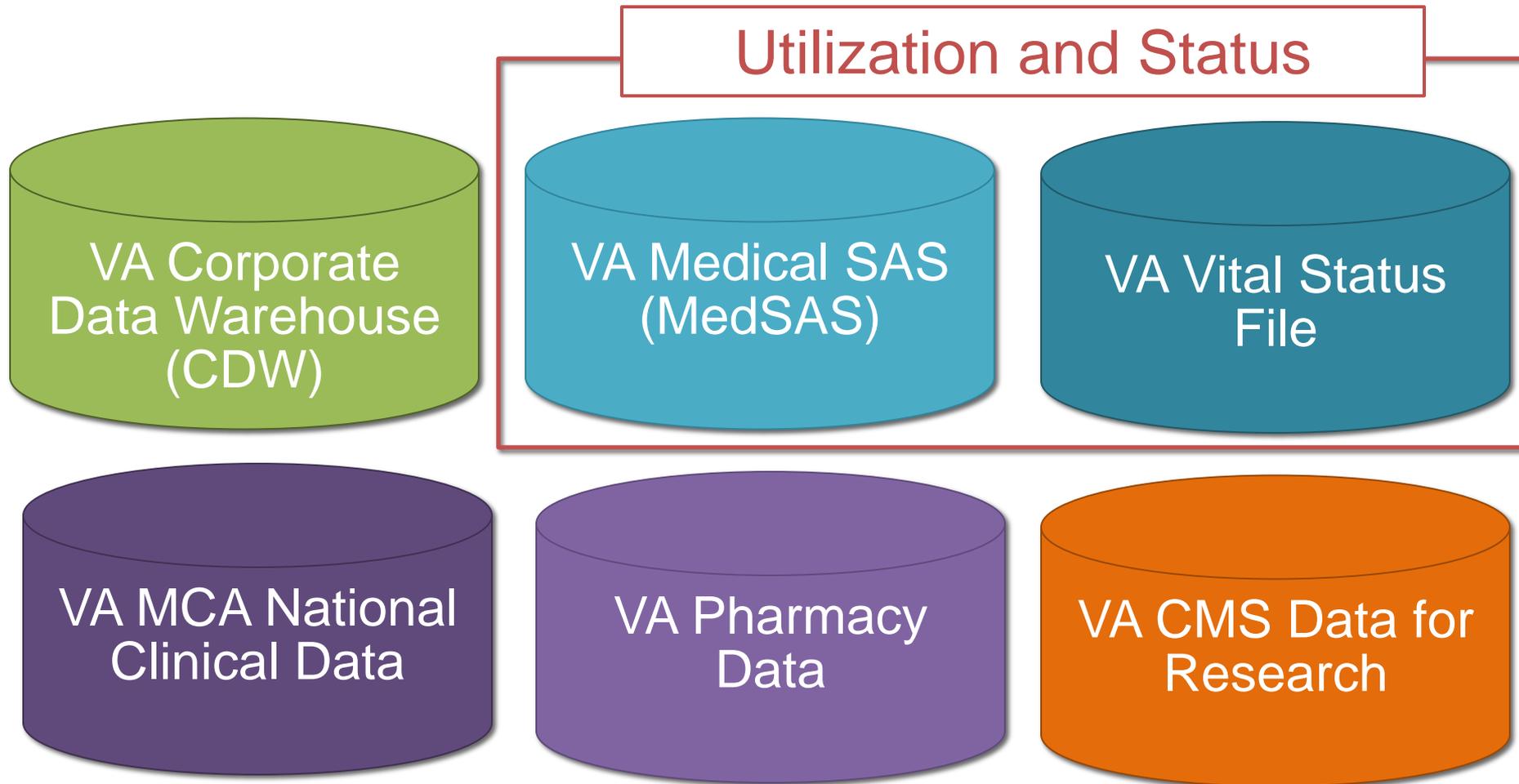
VA Vital Status
File

VA MCA National
Clinical Data

VA Pharmacy
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VA CMS Data for
Research

Commonly used VA data sources



Commonly used VA data sources

VA Corporate
Data Warehouse
(CDW)

VA Medical SAS
(MedSAS)

VA Vital Status
File

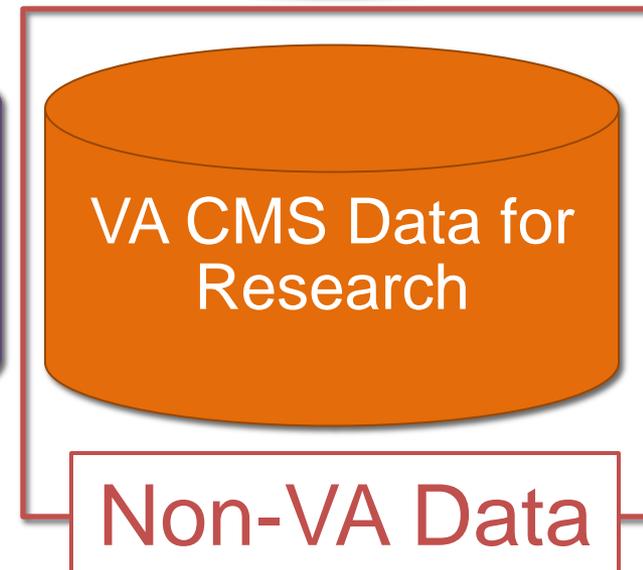
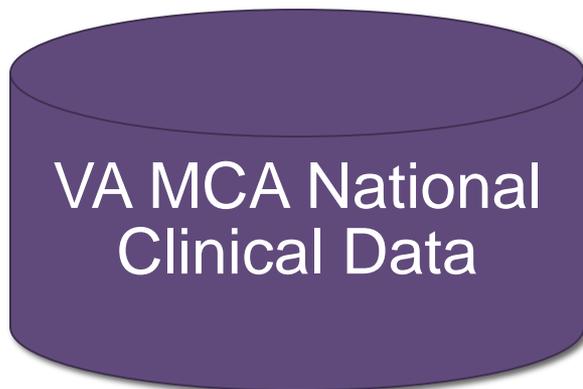
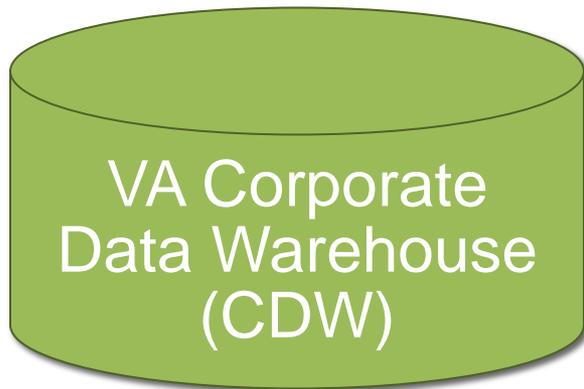
VA MCA National
Clinical Data

VA Pharmacy
Data

VA CMS Data for
Research

Clinical Care Activities & Costs

Commonly used VA data sources

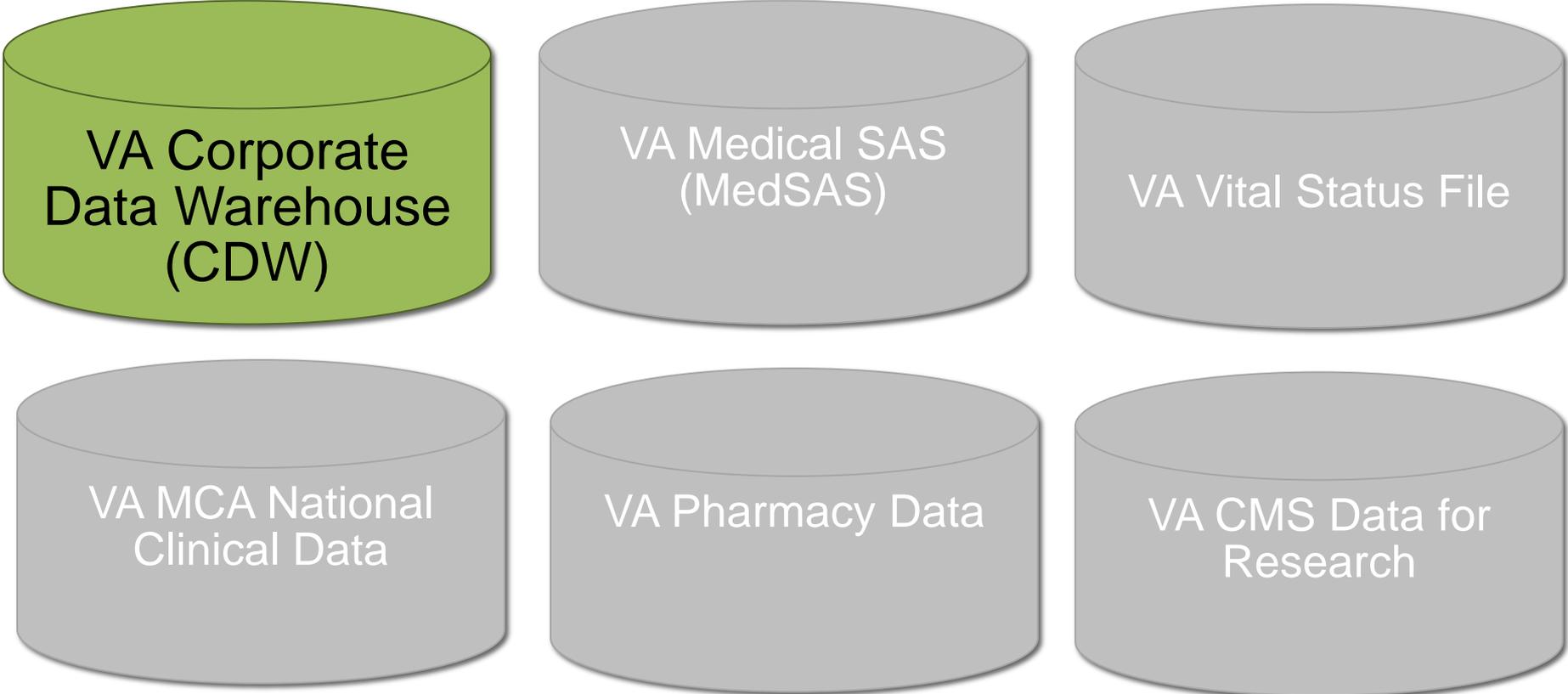


Session roadmap

- Introduction to VIREC
- Overview of the VA data environment
- Highlights of commonly used VA data sources
- Platforms & tools for using data
- Where to go for more help

Highlight: Corporate Data Warehouse

Data steward: National Data Systems (NDS)



VA Corporate
Data Warehouse
(CDW)

VA Medical SAS
(MedSAS)

VA Vital Status File

VA MCA National
Clinical Data

VA Pharmacy Data

VA CMS Data for
Research

CDW roles

BISL

Business
Intelligence
Service Line

Data Architects

Build the data
warehouse that
organizes these
data

NDS

National Data
Systems

Data Steward

Grants access to
CDW data

VINCI

VA Informatics
& Computing
Infrastructure

Data Provisioning

Creates subsets
of CDW data for
users who have
been granted
access

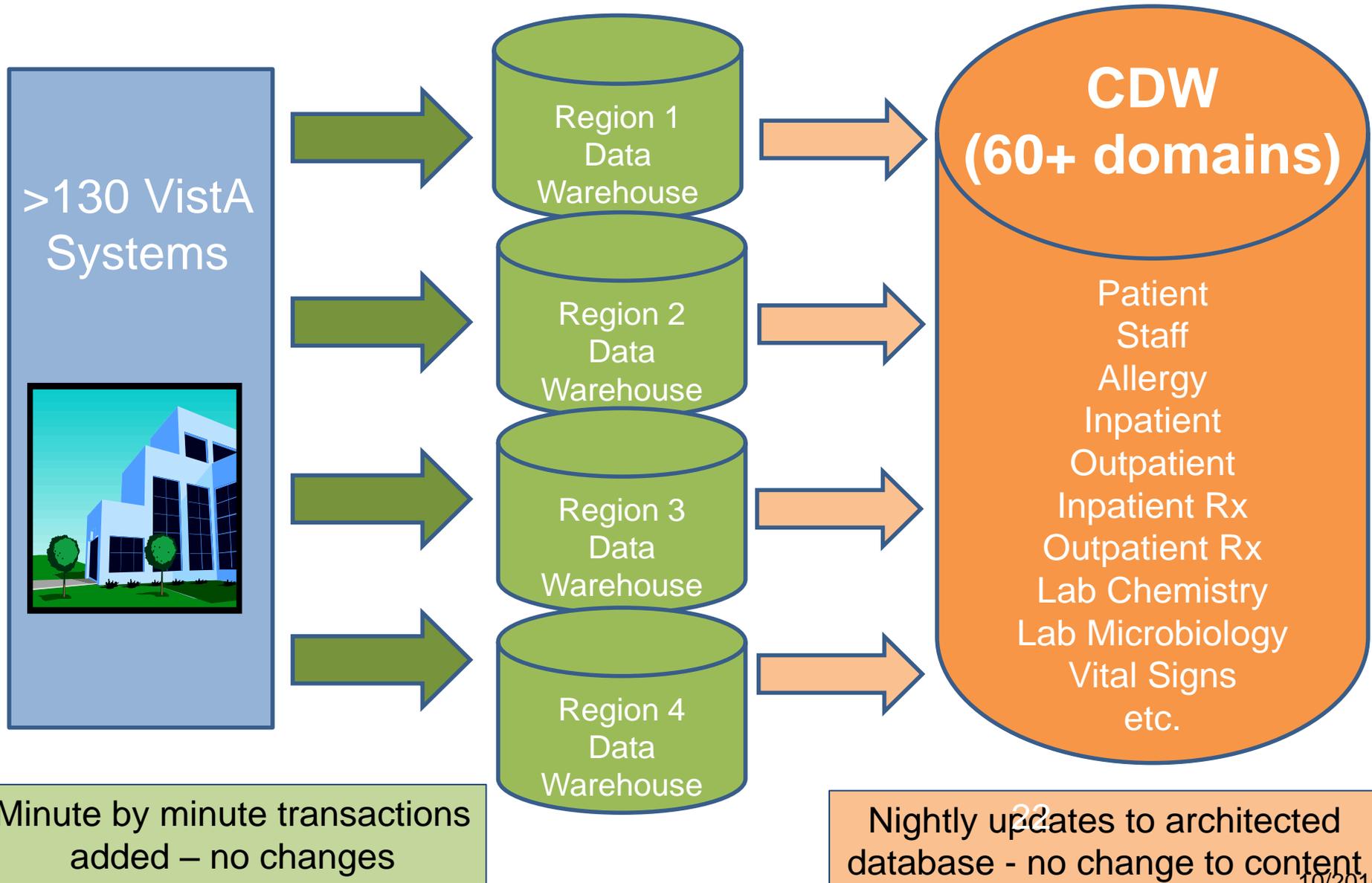
VIReC

VA Information
Resource
Center

Data Use Support

Provides
documentation &
education to help
understand and
use the data

CDW origin & content



CDW... things to know

- Data straight from VistA
 - Not curated or transformed
- CDW is a relational database, *not* a dataset
- For SAS users, requires some conceptual shifts and new skills
- Relatively new and still evolving
- CDW SharePoint Site:
<https://vaww.cdw.va.gov/Pages/CDWHome.aspx> (VA Intranet)

The screenshot shows the VIREC INTRANET website. At the top left is the VIREC logo, and at the top right is a search bar with the text "Search All VA Web Pages" and a "Search" button. Below the search bar is a link to "Open Advanced Search". The main header reads "VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER (VIREC)".

On the left side, there is a navigation menu with the following items: VIREC Home, VA/CMS Home, About Us, New Users of VA Data, FAQs, Acronyms, HelpDesk, and Report Broken Link.

The main content area is titled "CDW Documentation" and includes an "Overview" section. The overview text states: "VIREC's CDW documentation is designed to help new and seasoned CDW users with understanding the structure and contents of the CDW. This summary information is available by domain." Below this is a "Sign-up for Product News & Updates" section, which asks users to email the VIREC HelpDesk to receive notifications of new CDW products and updates.

There is a "Data Documentation" section with the text: "Expand each type of documentation below to view these resources." Below this text is a "+ Expand All" button. A list of expandable items follows:

- Getting Started with Using CDW
- NEW! Factbooks
- Statistical Snapshot
- Domain Layout & Descriptions
- Data Contents

On the right side, there is a sidebar with several sections:

- CDW**: Contains links for Overview, Data Transition to CDW, and Documentation.
- ICD-10 Implementation**: Contains a link to "Visit the 'CDW ICD-10 Implementation' page to learn more."
- General Resources**: Contains links for Data Access, Data Sources, Data Tools, Data Topics, Products & Services, and Special Projects.

<http://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/CDW/Documentation.htm>
(VA Intranet)

New to CDW?

Getting Started with Using CDW

These products are designed to help new CDW users with understanding the nature of relational data, becoming familiar with CDW structure and logic, finding documentation of CDW content, and knowing what to expect when first viewing CDW data in SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS) software.

Resources	Released	Resource 
CDW: A Conceptual Overview 2017	2017/03/29	
CDW: Locating Its Documentation 2017	2017/04/05	
Getting the Information You Need From CDW: SQL Starter Language	2015/01/26	
Building Your Dataset in CDW: Joining Tables within a Domain	2015/07/27	
Getting CDW Back Together: Joining CDW Tables (Continued)	2016/10/24	
Data Management in SQL: Selected Intermediate SQL Skills	2016/10/31	

<http://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/CDW/Documentation.htm>

Email virec@va.gov to be notified of new CDW products and seminars.

VIREC Factbook

Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW)

Outpatient 2.1 Domain

September 2016

Factbook



Part 3. Clinical Context

According to the *Outpatient Domain Release Document* [28], the primary fact table `Outpat.Visit` contains records from three VistA files: `Visit` (#9000010) file, `Outpatient Encounter` (#409.68) file and the `Patient (2)` file. The VistA file `Visit` (#9000010) is a collection of care and non-care records related to patients and non-patients that

Part 4. Table and Column Descriptions

Part 4 describes each table in the Outpatient 2.1 Domain and selected columns within each table. It is organized by table. The name of the table is presented in large font with a description of its general content immediately following. After each table description, selected columns within that table are described. Table 1 summarizes the various parts of the column descriptions.

Table 1. Content of Column Descriptions

Part 5. Primary and Foreign Key Connections Query

Once you have been granted access to CDW data, this query can be used to generate an up-to-date list of primary and foreign keys associated with this domain.

```
SELECT TOP 1000 [FKSchemaName]
```

Part 6. Example SQL Code for Basic Research Question

This section contains a series of simple research questions that are answered by applying basic SQL queries to the data in this domain. The three research questions include:

- How does `Outpat.Visit` compare to `Outpat.Workload`, in terms of number of records?
- What appointment status is associated with visits at my station last month?
- What are the 10 most common primary diagnoses for outpatient encounters at my station last month?

Question 1. How does `Outpat.Visit` compare to `Outpat.Workload`, in terms of number of records?

```
SELECT COUNT (VisitSID) TotalNumVisitsInJan
FROM CDWork.Outpat.Visit
WHERE VisitDateTime >= CONVERT (DATETIME2(0), '1/1/2015')
AND VisitDateTime <= CONVERT (DATETIME2(0), '1/31/2015') ;
```

TotalNumVisitsInJan

17,652,832

```
SELECT COUNT (VisitSID) as TotalWorkloadVisits
```

The Researcher's Notebook

How do I identify the bed sections for my cohort?

Introduction

This Researcher's Notebook is intended to provide logical steps for identifying Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW). The bed section is commonly referred to type of inpatient service provided and helps categorize the type of care provided. A patient may move from one specialty to another during the inpatient stay. This notebook provides various bed section stays a patient experienced during an inpatient stay.

Step 1 | Become Familiar with the Terminology and Data

These are some terms that used in this notebook:

- Specialty – type of inpatient service, or bed section (e.g. Medicine, Surgery)
- BedSection – type of inpatient service, or specialty (e.g., Medicine, Surgery)
- Treating Specialty – subsection of the specialty (e.g. Cardiology, Surgical ICU)
- PTF Code – “Specialty Code” (e.g., 72 = “ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE TRMT UNIT”)
- Inpatient stay – complete stay from admission to discharge (made up of 1 or more bed section stays)
- Bed section stay – duration in a particular specialty or bed section
- LOS in Service – length of stay in a specialty or bed section
- Vista 501 Movement – specialty transfer/bed section movements
- Vista 535 Movement – physical transfer/ward transfer movements (e.g. “1 North”)

Step 2 | Understand the Logic of the CDW Inpatient (Inpat) Tables

It is first necessary to understand how and when the information about bed section is entered into the various tables found in the inpatient domain. This understanding of the data has been inductively reasoned via the presence of a LosingSpecialtySID in Inpat.Inpatient and Inpat.SpecialtyTransfer.

- Inpatient data is not populated in the Inpat.Inpatient and Inpat.SpecialtyTransfer until the patient is discharged from the hospital (inpatient stay ends). Upon discharge from the last bed section (and thus the hospital) the data will be populated in these CDW tables.

Step 3 | Identify the Tables/Views and Columns Needed

- SPatient.SPatient is used to identify individual patients and eliminate known and probable test patients; the columns used in this process include: PatientSSN, PatientSID and CDWPossibleTestPatientFlag.
- Dim.Specialty is needed to identify the specialty's code and description; the following columns Specialty and PTFCode will be used.

Step 5 | Write SQL Queries

Step 5 provides basic code to identify bed section records of interest.

5.1 Select bed section stays from Inpat.Inpatient (last or only bed section of discharged patients only)

The following SQL query selects bed section stays of interest (in this example bed section code 72, 73, and 74) from the Inpat.Inpatient table. This is done by selecting the appropriate columns from the Inpat.Inpatient

```
--Inpat.SpecialtyTransfer Records
SELECT
    st.InpatientSID,
    st.PatientSID,
    st.AdmitDateTime, -- same as below if bed section stay is also the first bed section stay
    SpecialtyTransferDateTimeIn=DATEADD(DAY, st.LOSInService*-1, st.SpecialtyTransferDateTimeIn)
    -- DATEADD back calculates start
    st.SpecialtyTransferDateTime as SpecialtyTransferDateTimeOut,
    sp.Specialty,
    sp.PTFCode,
    st.LOSInService,
    InpatCensus='I' -- Flag source
INTO [personal schema].sabuseBSinpat501
FROM Inpat.SpecialtyTransfer st
INNER JOIN Dim.Specialty sp
ON (st.LosingSpecialtySID=sp.SpecialtySID) -- The name of PK and FK differ !!!
WHERE (sp.PTFCode in ('72', '73', '74')) and
    st.LosingSpecialtySID is not null and
    st.LOSInService is not null /* -- ignore rows w/ Treating Specialty change but
    no Specialty changes */

;
```

Highlight: VA MedSAS Data

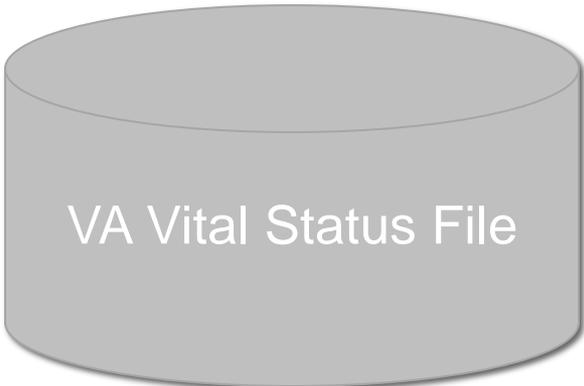
Data steward: National Data Systems (NDS)



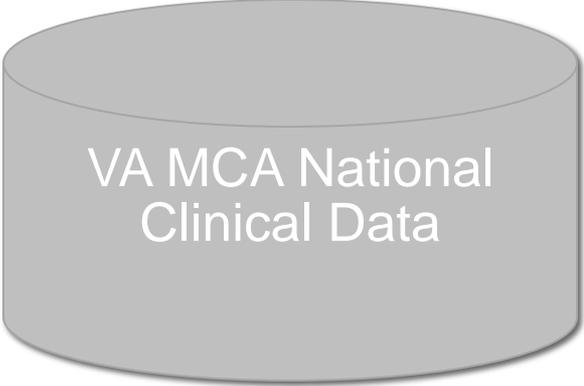
VA Corporate Data
Warehouse (CDW)



**VA Medical SAS
(MedSAS)**



VA Vital Status File



VA MCA National
Clinical Data



VA Pharmacy Data

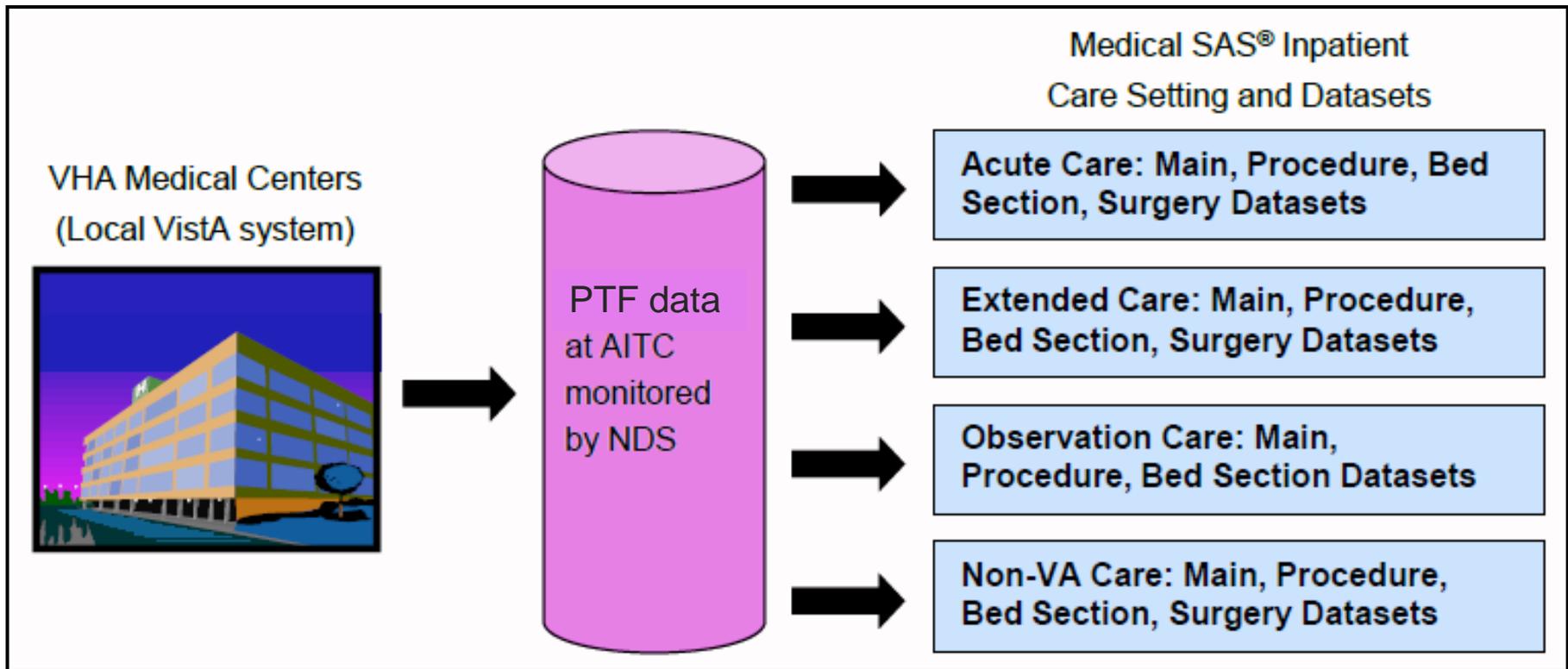


VA CMS Data for
Research

MedSAS... things to know

- Data have been summarized and had business rules applied
 - Inpatient discharges at the stay level (episode of care)
 - Outpatient information at the visit and encounter level
- Include diagnostic, treatment, and some demographic information from the electronic health record
 - Demographic information current *at time of encounter or stay*
- Includes data about care in non-VA facilities paid for by VA

MedSAS inpatient overview



Patient Treatment File (PTF)
Austin Information Technology Center (AITC)
National Data Systems (NDS)

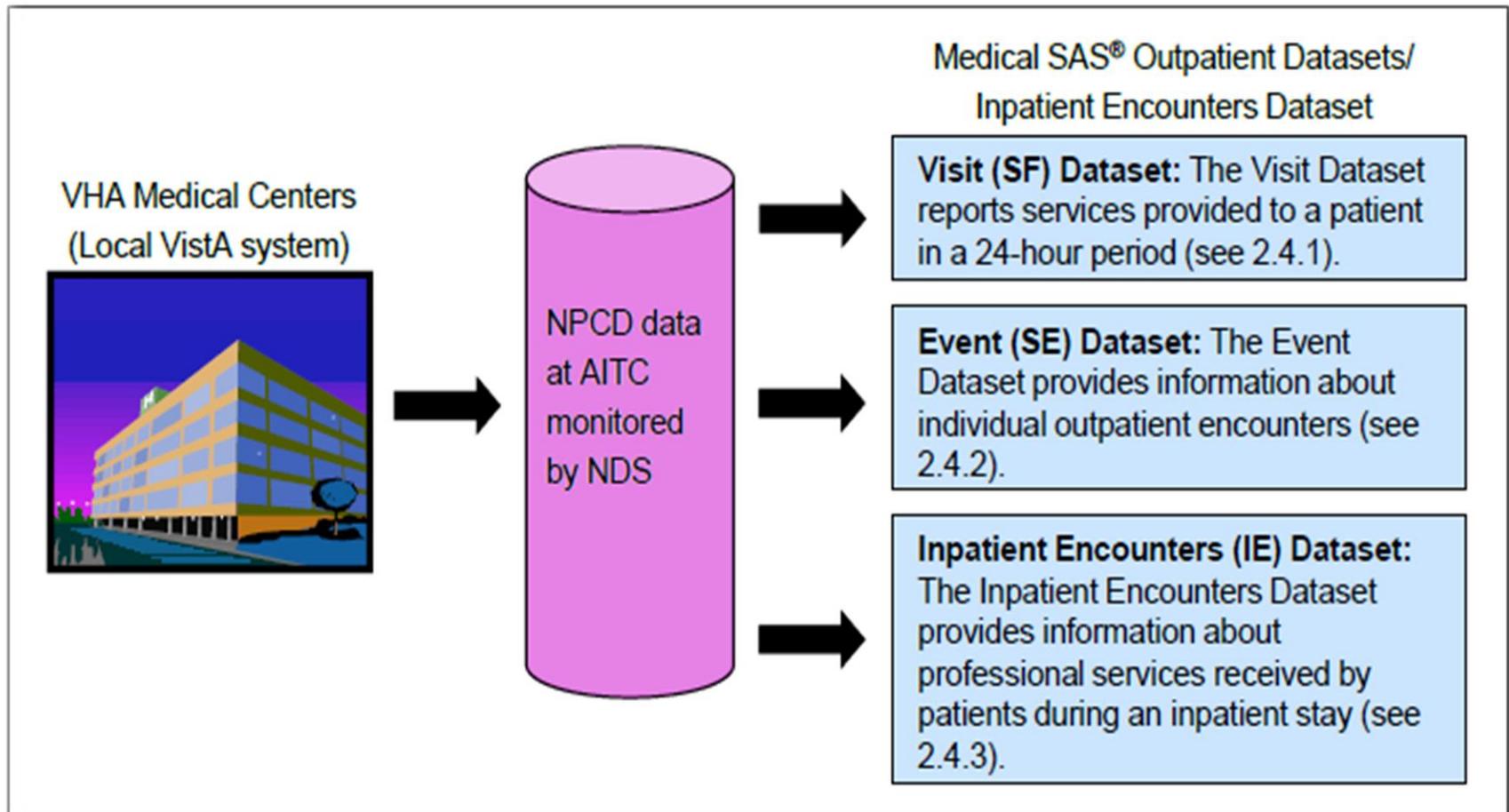
MedSAS inpatient data elements

Examples

- Patient demographics
- ICD-9/10 diagnosis codes
- ICD-9/10 procedure & surgery codes
- Discharge dates
- Treating specialty



MedSAS outpatient overview



National Patient Care Database (NPCD)
National Data Systems (NDS)

MedSAS outpatient data elements

Examples

- Patient demographics
- ICD-9/10 diagnosis codes
- CPT-4 procedure codes
- Event dates
- Provider specialty



Coming soon! MedSAS Replacement data views

- NPCD Database to be discontinued
- MedSAS **outpatient** files (SF/SE/IE) will become available as SQL views in CDW
 - Current variables recreated
 - Will look the same to the end user, just in SQL
- Currently being tested to make sure workload logic applied correctly
- Availability and access information to come



VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER (VIREC)

[VIREC Home](#)
[VA/CMS Home](#)
[About Us](#)
[New Users of VA Data](#)
[FAQs](#)
[Acronyms](#)
[HelpDesk](#)
[Report Broken Link](#)

Medical SAS Datasets Documentation

Overview

VIREC's documentation on the Medical SAS Inpatient, Inpatient Encounters, and Outpatient Datasets is intended to help new and seasoned data users with understanding the content and variables in these datasets.

Data Documentation

+ Expand All

- + Research User Guides
- + Data Contents
- + Frequencies
- + Historical Variable Attributes
- + Historical Stop Codes

Medical SAS Datasets

- [Overview](#)
- [Inpatient](#)
- [Inpatient Encounters](#)
- [Outpatient](#)
- [Documentation](#)

ICD-10 Implementation

Visit the "ICD-10 Implementation" page to learn more.

General Resources

- ▣ [Data Access](#)
- ▣ [Data Sources](#)
- ▣ [Data Tools](#)
- ▣ [Data Topics](#)
- ▣ [Products & Services](#)
- ▣ [Special Projects](#)

[VIREC Home](#) |
 [VA/CMS Home](#) |
 [VHA Data Portal](#) |
 [VA R&D Home](#) |
 [VA HSR&D Service](#) |
 [Viewers](#) |
 [Sitemap](#) |
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<http://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/MedSAS/Documentation.htm>

(VA Intranet)

VIReC Research User Guide

Fiscal Year 2014 VHA Medical SAS

May 2015

2.1 Background

VA health care facility staff members across the United States and Puerto Rico enter patient care information into Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (Vista), the main information collection and data management system in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). A select set of data collected during patient health care occasions are entered in local health care facilities Vista systems and then electronically transferred from each local Vista system upon discharge of a patient or upon collection of quarterly census data only to a centralized Patient Treatment Master File (PTF) maintained at the Austin Information Technology SAS Dataset

National Data and provides project coordination data progress

Figure 1. D:
Inpatient D



3.1 List of Variables & their Dataset Locations

This section lists variables and their dataset locations for the fiscal year (FY) 2014 VHA Medical SAS Inpatient Acute Care Main, Bed Section, Procedure and Surgery Datasets. An X in the frequency column indicates VIReC provides additional summary information for this variable in *VIReC Select Variable Frequencies: Medical SAS Datasets, FY2000–2014* [16].

Table 5 provides a short definition of each variable and reports their presence in the FY2014 Inpatient Acute Care Datasets.

Table 5. FY2014 VHA Medical SAS Inpatient Variables and their Dataset Locations

SAS Name	Definition	Main	Bed Section	Surgery	Procedure	Frequency
ABO	Number of days a patient was out of the hospital on pass during an inpatient stay	X				
ADMITDAY	Date of admission of the inpatient stay	X	X	X	X	

Variable Name: ABO

Definition: Number of days a patient was out of the hospital on pass during an inpatient stay

Remarks: This variable is used in the calculation of the LS (number of bed days for the entire episode of care) variable. Chapter 10, "Absences," of the *VHA Manual of Policies (M-1), Operations: Part I, Medical Administration Activities* [17] provides guidelines for granting of authorized absences. Section 10.08 of this manual indicates that an authorized absence for hospital patients may not exceed 96 hours. The 96-hour limit applies to the variables PASS and PASSB. This section suggests that ABO is reserved for absences greater than 96 hours.

Data Type	Numeric
Print Format	None
Label	ABSENT BED OCCUPANT DAYS
Variable Availability in Medical SAS Datasets: Fiscal Years (FY)	Acute Main: FY1970 – to date
Vista Data Source	PTF (45) file, ASIH field

More about MedSAS

Join us May 7, 2018

VA Healthcare Utilization

Dr. Denise Hynes

Archived FY17 sessions:

https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/for_researchers/cyber_seminars/archives/video_archive.cfm?SessionID=1241

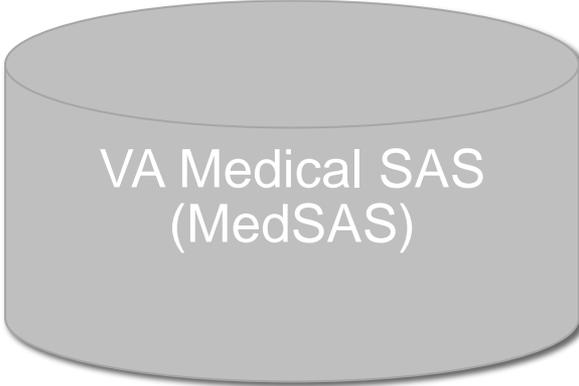
https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/for_researchers/cyber_seminars/archives/video_archive.cfm?SessionID=1224

Highlight: VA Vital Status File (VSF)

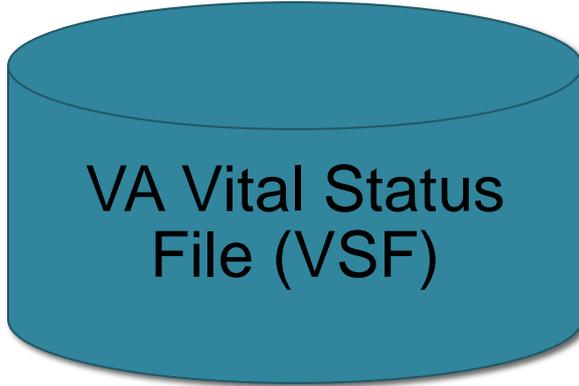
Data steward: National Data Systems (NDS)



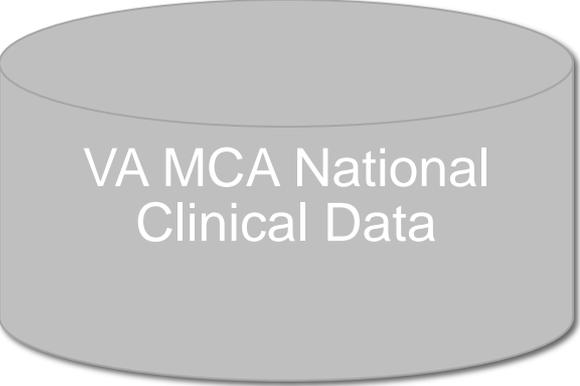
VA Corporate Data
Warehouse (CDW)



VA Medical SAS
(MedSAS)



**VA Vital Status
File (VSF)**



VA MCA National
Clinical Data



VA Pharmacy Data



VA CMS Data for
Research

VA Vital Status File... things to know

- Includes death and birth dates from multiple sources of mortality information
 - VA Workload Data (PTF and Fee Basis)
 - Beneficiary Identification and Resource Locator System (BIRLS) Death File (from VBA)
 - Medicare Vital Status File
 - Monthly Social Security Administration Death Master File
- Two files - Master and Mini

VA Vital Status File data elements

VSF Master File

- Death dates from:
 - VA & CMS enrollment & utilization
 - VBA & Social Security benefits
- Last healthcare utilization dates from multiple sources

VSF Mini File

- Applies algorithm to determine “best”
 - Death date
 - Birth date
 - Gender
- Last utilization
- Presumed living indicator

More about mortality data

Join us Jan 8, 2018

Mortality Ascertainment & Cause of Death

Dr. Charles Maynard

Archived FY17 session:

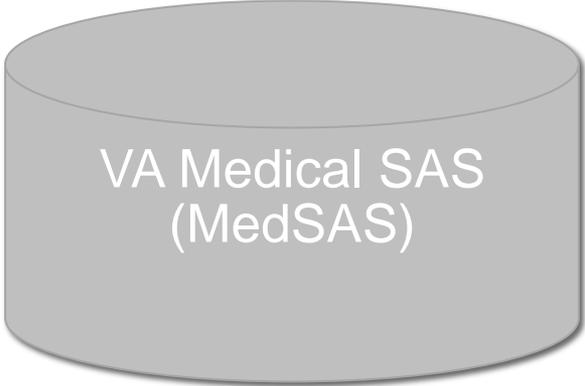
https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/for_researchers/cyber_seminars/archives/video_archive.cfm?SessionID=1242

Highlight: MCA National Clinical Data

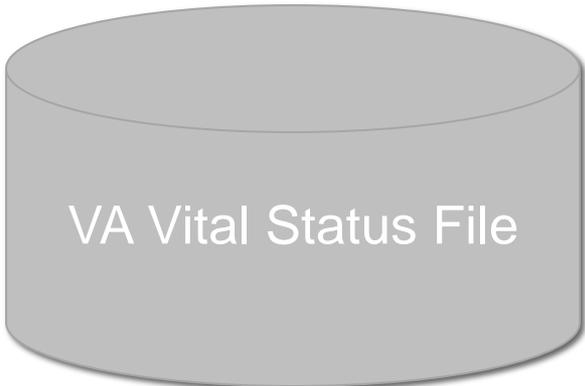
Data steward: VHA Managerial Cost Accounting Office



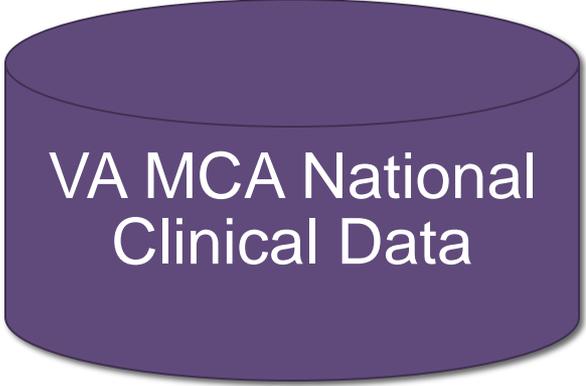
VA Corporate Data
Warehouse (CDW)



VA Medical SAS
(MedSAS)



VA Vital Status File



VA MCA National
Clinical Data



VA Pharmacy Data



VA CMS Data for
Research

MCA national clinical data... things to know

- MCA creates 26 National Data Extracts (NDEs), classified as Core, Clinical, Financial, Program Activity
 - See VHA Data Portal for full list
- Four clinical NDEs most relevant to health services research
 - Lab tests & costs (LAB)
 - Lab test results (LAR)
 - Pharmacy prescriptions (PHA)
 - Radiology procedures (RAD)

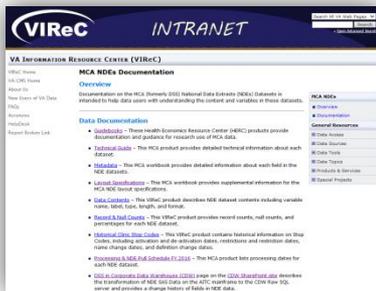
VA MCA clinical NDE data elements

Examples

- Date
- Test results
- Ordering provider
- Costs

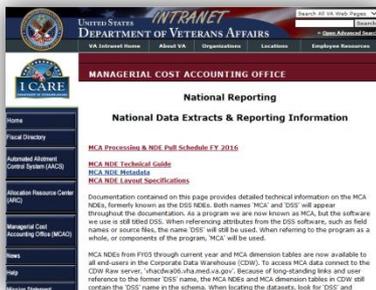


Resources for MCA NDEs



VIREC MCA NDEs Documentation

<http://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/MedSAS/Documentation.htm>
(VA Intranet)



MCAO National Data Extracts & Reporting Information

http://vaww.dss.med.va.gov/nationalrptg/nr_extracts.asp
(VA Intranet)



Health Economics Resource Center (HERC)

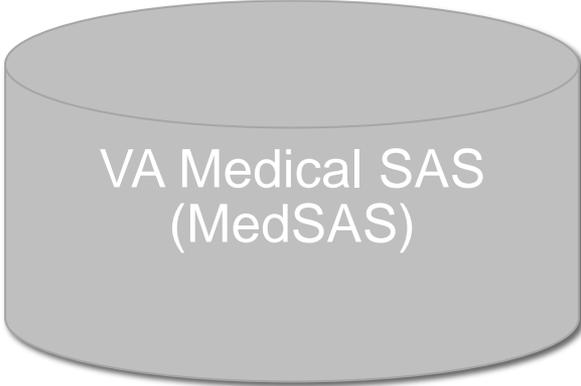
<http://vaww.herc.research.va.gov/include/page.asp?id=managerial-cost-accounting>
(VA Intranet)

Highlight: VA pharmacy data

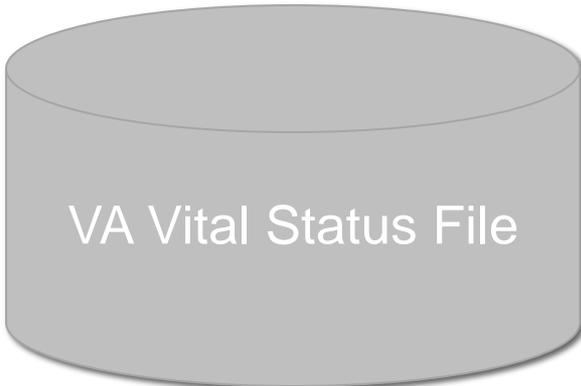
Data stewards: PBM, MCAO, NDS



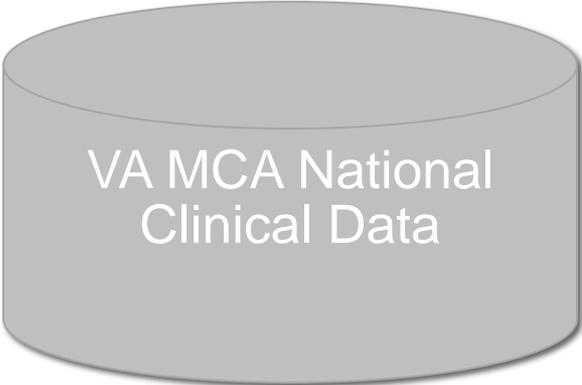
VA Corporate Data
Warehouse (CDW)



VA Medical SAS
(MedSAS)



VA Vital Status File



VA MCA National
Clinical Data



**VA Pharmacy
Data**



VA CMS Data for
Research

Sources of data on medications dispensed in VA

Pharmacy Benefits Management

- Data Steward: PBM

MCA Pharmacy NDE

- Data Steward: MCAO

Four CDW Production Domains

- Data Steward: NDS
- Pharmacy Bar Code Medication Administration (BCMA) Domain (inpatient pharmacy)
- Pharmacy Outpatient Domain
- Pharmacy Patient Domain
- Non-VA Meds

VA pharmacy data elements

Examples

- Generic drug name
- VA drug class
- Days supply
- Cost
- Dosing instructions (PBM only)



The screenshot shows the VIREC INTRANET website. The header includes the VIREC logo and the word "INTRANET" in a stylized font. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area is titled "VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER (VIREC)" and features a left sidebar with navigation links: VIREC Home, VA/CMS Home, About Us, New Users of VA Data, FAQs, Acronyms, and HelpDesk. The main content is under the "Pharmacy" section, which includes an "Overview" heading and a paragraph explaining that pharmacy data is available from multiple sources within the VA, including MCA, PBM, CDW, and VistA. A link to a research user guide is provided. Below this is a section for "MCA (formerly DSS)" with a paragraph describing the MCA Pharmacy (PHA) National Data Extract (NDE) and a table with two columns: "Pharmacy Clinical NDE" and "Description". The table lists "Pharmacy (PHA)" and its description: "Pharmacy prescription utilization and costs, inpatient and outpatient". Further down, there are sections for "CDW", "PBM", and "VistA", each with a brief description of the data source.

VIREC INTRANET

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VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER (VIREC)

VIREC Home
 VA/CMS Home
 About Us
 New Users of VA Data
 FAQs
 Acronyms
 HelpDesk

Pharmacy

Overview

Pharmacy data are available from multiple sources within the VA, including VA's Managerial Cost Accounting (MCA) System (formerly Decision Support System or DSS) , Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM), Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW), and Veterans Health Information Systems & Technologies Architecture (VistA). VistA is the pharmacy data source for MCA, PBM, and CDW data.

VIREC's [Research User Guide: VHA Pharmacy Prescription Data, 2nd Edition](#) provides a description of the similarities and differences between MCA Pharmacy NDEs and PBM data extracts provided by PBM.

MCA (formerly DSS)

The MCA Pharmacy (PHA) National Data Extract (NDE) contains pharmacy data, available fiscal year (FY) 2005 through the current year are now in the Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW) in SQL tables, shown in the table below. VIREC's "[CDW Documentation](#)" page describes the MCA PHA NDE in more detail.

Pharmacy Clinical NDE	Description
Pharmacy (PHA)	Pharmacy prescription utilization and costs, inpatient and outpatient

CDW

The CDW is a national repository comprising data from VistA and several other VHA clinical and administrative systems. CDW data are organized into domains. CDW pharmacy data are in the Pharmacy, Outpatient domain. More information about the CDW is available from VIREC's "[CDW](#)" page.

PBM

The PBM database is a national database containing records for prescriptions dispensed in the VHA, including VHA's Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy. More information about the PBM database is available from VIREC's "[PBM Database](#)" page.

VistA

VistA's Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS) contains electronic health record data from all VA treatment settings, including outpatient, inpatient, and long term care. Researchers can access pharmacy data contained in individual patient records. More information about VistA is available from VIREC's "[VistA](#)" page.

Pharmacy

- Overview

General Resources

- Data Access
- Data Sources
- Data Tools
- Data Topics
- Products & Services
- Special Projects

<http://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/Pharmacy/Overview.htm>

(VA Intranet)

More about pharmacy data

Join us April 2, 2018

VA Pharmacy Data

Dr. Charles Maynard

Dr. Bonnie Paris

Archived FY17 session:

https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/for_researchers/cyber_seminars/archives/video_archive.cfm?SessionID=1259

Highlight: VA/CMS Data for Research

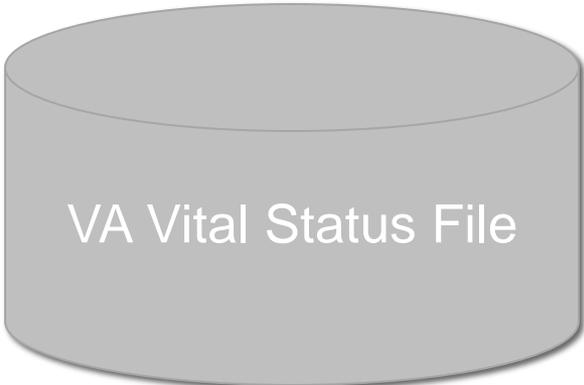
Data steward: VIREC



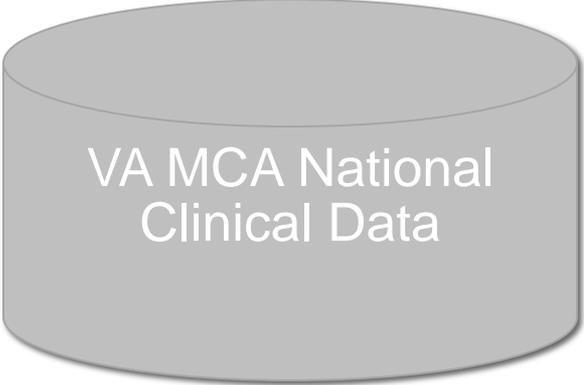
VA Corporate Data
Warehouse (CDW)



VA Medical SAS
(MedSAS)



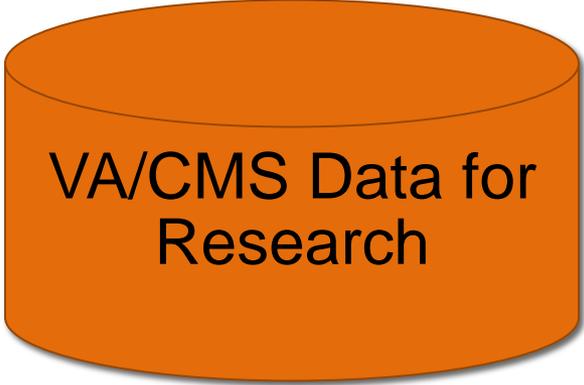
VA Vital Status File



VA MCA National
Clinical Data



VA Pharmacy Data



**VA/CMS Data for
Research**

VA/CMS - types of data

- Medicare & Medicaid enrollment and claims data
- Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS) data
- Patient assessment data
- Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) - utilization in Medicare managed care
- United States Renal Data System (USRDS) data

VA/CMS data elements

- Examples
 - Medicare and Medicaid enrollment
 - ICD-9 diagnosis codes
 - ICD-9 and CPT4 procedure codes
 - Charges and payments
 - Veteran flag

VIREC INTRANET

Search All VA Web Pages [Open Advanced Search](#)

VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER (VIREC)

VIREC Home
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Help

DATA

Learn More About the VA/CMS Project

New: VA/CMS Statistical Snapshot

New: Bibliography of VA & CMS Publications

VA/CMS Data Currently Available

Data Requests

[At a Glance](#): Learn about requesting VA/CMS repository and non-repository data.

[Pre-Request Consultations](#): A recommended step for researchers who are planning on submitting a request.

[Standard Data Request Process](#): Used to request data from the VA/CMS Data Repository, includes an overview of the process, timeline, and cost information.

[Special Data Request Process](#): Used to request VA/CMS non-repository data, includes an overview of the process, timeline, and cost information.

Current Users of VA/CMS Data

[Continuing Use](#): Outlines the requirements for projects that have an active VA/CMS Data Use Agreement.

[Terminating Use](#): Provides the VA/CMS data retention policy and required steps for terminating data use.

[Regulations](#) for research use of VA/CMS data.

VA/CMS Repository Data

[Understanding Repository Data](#): Information about data maintained in the VA/CMS Data Repository and access point for detailed information on each data type (e.g. [Medicare](#) (including Part D Slim File), [Medicaid](#), [Assessment](#), [HEDIS](#), [MCBS](#), [USRDS](#), [VA/CMS Match Indicator File](#)).

[Cohorts and Identifiers](#): Description of the different cohorts and identifiers available for Veterans and Non-Veterans. Information on the VHA Cohort is available on the [Cohorts and Identifiers Details](#) page.

[Data Documentation](#): Current and historical information about dataset variables, counts, frequencies, and more.

Other CMS Data for VA Research Use

[VA/CMS Non-Repository Data](#): Overview of non-repository data including types of data, available cohorts and identifiers, availability and access information.

[CMS Public Use Data and Summary Information](#) (including [Provider data](#)): Overview of public use data including available summary information.

<http://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/Index-VACMS.htm>

(VA Intranet)

More about VA/CMS data for research

Join us December 4, 2017

VA Medicare Data

Ms. Kristin de Groot

Archived FY17 session:

https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/for_researchers/cyber_seminars/archives/video_archive.cfm?SessionID=1079

Session roadmap

- Introduction
- Highlights of commonly used VA data sources
- Platforms & tools for using data
- Where to go for more help

VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure



- Secure data environment
- High-speed processing platform
- Free data management and analytic tools
- VINCI services

VINCI Central Website

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

AITC (Austin Information Technology Center)

- Centralized computer processing center (mainframe)
- Available data
 - MedSAS datasets
 - VA Vital Status file
- Learn More...
 - VHA Data Portal AITC Mainframe page
<http://vaww.vhadataportal.med.va.gov/DataSources/AITCMainframe.aspx> (VHA Intranet)
 - AITC Mainframe Website
<https://vaww.sde.portal.va.gov/sites/eo/Pages/Default.aspx> (VHA Intranet)

CAPRI & JLV

Read-only access to patient electronic health records (EHRs)

CAPRI*

- Uses desktop computer software application
- Can see patient record one site at a time
- Includes search function
- Direct access to JLV

Joint Legacy Viewer

- Replacing VistAWeb
- VA Intranet web portal
- Can see VA and DoD patient records for all care sites at once
- VistA Imaging available

More about EHR viewer tools

Date TBD, join us in summer of 2018!

Archived FY17 session:

https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/for_researchers/cyber_seminars/archives/video_archive.cfm?SessionID=1260

Session roadmap

- Introduction
- Highlights of commonly used VA data sources
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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

VIReC options for specific questions

HSRData Listserv

- 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)



HelpDesk

- 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.vhadatportal.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

Take-aways

- VA has many data sources that can be used to address research & QI questions
- Data are complex and distributed
- Use resources VIREC and others offer to
 - help you navigate data sources
 - connect you with peers, experts & additional info

Contact information

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**Next session:
November 6, 2017**



Database & Methods Cyberseminar Series

Requesting Access to VA Data

Linda Kok, MA

VA Information Resource Center