97VA105

97VA10P1

SYSTEM NAME:

“Consolidated Data Information System-VA”.

SYSTEM LOCATION(S):

Records will be maintained at Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Veterans Health Administration (VHA) sites for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) data (see VA Appendix 5).

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

Records include information concerning veterans, their spouses and their dependents, family members, active duty military personnel, and individuals who are not VA beneficiaries, but who receive health care services from VHA.

Categories of records in the system:

Categories of records in the system will include veterans’ names, addresses, dates of birth, VA claim numbers, social security numbers (SSNs), and military service information, medical benefit application and eligibility information, code sheets and follow-up notes, sociological, diagnostic, counseling, rehabilitation, drug and alcohol, dietetic, medical, surgical, dental, psychological, and/or psychiatric medical information, prosthetic, pharmacy, nuclear medicine, social work, clinical laboratory and radiology information, patient scheduling information, family information such as next of kin, spouse and dependents’ names, addresses, social security numbers and dates of birth, family medical history, employment information, financial information, third-party health plan information, information related to registry systems, date of death, VA claim and insurance file numbers, travel benefits information, military decorations, disability or pension payment information, amount of indebtedness arising from 38 U.S.C. benefits, applications for compensation, pension, education and rehabilitation benefits, information related to incarceration in a penal institution, medication profile such as name, quantity, prescriber, dosage, manufacturer, lot number, cost and administration instruction, pharmacy dispensing information such as pharmacy name and address.
The records will include information on Medicare beneficiaries from CMS databases including: health care usage, demographic, enrollment, and survey/assessment files including veteran and non-veteran data.

The records include information on Medicaid beneficiaries’ utilization and enrollment from state databases.

The records include information on veterans enrolled for VA health care who have participated in the periodic “VHA Survey of Veteran Enrollees” Health and Reliance Upon VA.”

The records also include information on: Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA), VA/DOD Identity Repository (VADIR), as well as the OEF/OIF roster (Defense Manpower Data Center), and United States Renal Data System (USRDS).

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:


PURPOSE(S):

The purpose of this system of records is to conduct statistical studies and analyses which will support the formulation of Departmental policies and plans by identifying the total current health care usage of the VA patient population. The records and information may be used by VA in evaluation of Department programs. The information may be used to conduct research.

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSE OF SUCH USES:

VA may disclose protected health information pursuant to the following routine uses where required by law, or required or permitted by 45 CFR parts 160 and 164.

1. VA may disclose on its own initiative any information in this system, except the names and home addresses of veterans and their dependents, which is relevant to a suspected or reasonably imminent violation of law, whether civil, criminal or regulatory in nature and whether arising by general or program statute or by regulation, rule or order issued pursuant thereto, to a Federal, State, local, Tribal, or foreign agency charged with the responsibility of investigating or prosecuting such violation, or charged with enforcing or implementing the statute, regulation, rule or order. On its own initiative, VA may also disclose the names and addresses of veterans and their dependents to a Federal agency charged with the responsibility of investigating or prosecuting civil, criminal or regulatory violations of law, or charged with enforcing or implementing the statute, regulation, rule or order issued pursuant thereto.

2. Disclosure may be made, excluding name and address (unless name and address are furnished by the requestor) for research purposes determined to be necessary and proper
to epidemiological and other research facilities approved by the System Manager or the Under Secretary for Health, or designee.

3. Any record in the system of records may be disclosed to a Federal agency for the conduct of research and data analysis to perform a statutory purpose of that Federal agency upon the prior written request of that agency, provided that there is legal authority under all applicable confidentiality statutes and regulations to provide the data and VHA Medicare and Medicaid Analysis Center (MAC) has determined prior to the disclosure that VA data handling requirements are satisfied. MAC may disclose limited individual identification information to another Federal agency for the purpose of matching and acquiring information held by that agency for MAC to use for the purposes stated for this system of records.

4. Disclosure may be made to National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), General Services Administration (GSA) in records management inspections conducted under authority of 44 U.S.C.

5. VA may disclose information in this system of records to the Department of Justice (DoJ), either on VA's initiative or in response to DoJ's request for the information, after either VA or DoJ determines that such information is relevant to DoJ's representation of the United States or any of its components in legal proceedings before a court or adjudicative body, provided that, in each case, the agency also determines prior to disclosure that disclosure of the records to the Department of Justice is a use of the information contained in the records that is compatible with the purpose for which VA collected the records. VA, on its own initiative, may disclose records in this system of records in legal proceedings before a court or administrative body after determining that the disclosure of the records to the court or administrative body is a use of the information contained in the records that is compatible with the purpose for which VA collected the records.

6. Disclosure may be made to individuals, organizations, private or public agencies, or other entities or individuals with whom VA has a contract or agreement to perform such services as VA may deem practicable for the purposes of laws administered by VA, in order for the contractor, subcontractor, public or private agency, or other entity or individual with whom VA has an agreement or contract to perform the services of the contract or agreement. This routine use includes disclosures by the individual or entity performing the service for VA to any secondary entity or individual to perform an activity that is necessary for individuals, organizations, private or public agencies, or other entities or individuals with whom VA has a contract or agreement to provide the service to VA.

7. Any records may be disclosed to appropriate agencies, entities, and persons under the following circumstances: when (1) it is suspected or confirmed that the security or confidentiality of information in the system of records has been compromised; (2) the Department has determined that as a result of the suspected or confirmed compromise there is a risk of embarrassment or harm to the reputations of the record subjects, harm to economic or property interests, identity theft or fraud, or harm to the security or integrity of this system or other systems or programs (whether maintained by the Department or another agency or entity) that rely upon the compromised information; and (3) the disclosure is made to such agencies, entities, and persons who are reasonably necessary
to assist in connection with the Department’s efforts to respond to the suspected or confirmed compromise and prevent, minimize, or remedy such harm.

8. The record of an individual who is covered by a system of records may be disclosed to a Member of Congress, or a staff person acting for the member, when the member or staff person requests the record on behalf of and at the written request of the individual.

9. Disclosure to other Federal agencies may be made to assist such agencies in preventing and detecting possible fraud or abuse by individuals in their operations and programs.

10. VA may disclose information to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission when requested in connection with investigations of alleged or possible discrimination practices, examinations of Federal affirmative employment programs, compliance with the Uniform Guidelines of Employee Selection Procedures, or other functions of the Commission as authorized by law or regulation.

11. VA may disclose information to a former VA employee or contractor, as well as the authorized representative of a current or former employee or contractor of VA, in proceedings before the Merit Systems Protection Board or the Office of the Special Counsel in connection with appeals, special studies of the civil service and other merit systems, review of rules and regulations, investigation of alleged or possible prohibited personnel practices, and such other functions promulgated in 5 U.S.C. 1206, or as otherwise authorized by law.

12. VA may disclose to the Federal Labor Relations Authority, including its General Counsel, information related to the establishment of jurisdiction, investigation, and resolution of allegations of unfair labor practices, or in connection with the resolution of exceptions to arbitration awards when a question of material fact is raised in matters before the Federal Service Impasses Panel.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

STORAGE:

Data are maintained on magnetic tape, disk, or laser optical media.

RETRIEVABILITY:

Records may be retrieved by name, name and one or more criteria (e.g., dates of birth, death and service), SSN or VA claim number.

SAFEGUARDS:

1. Access to and use of these records is limited to those persons whose official duties require such access. Personnel screening is employed to prevent unauthorized disclosure.

2. Access to Automated Data Processing files is controlled at two levels: (1) Terminals, central processing units, and peripheral devices are generally placed in secure areas (areas that are locked or have limited access) or are otherwise protected; and (2) the system
recognizes authorized users by means of an individually unique password entered in combination with an individually unique user identification code.

3. Access to automated records concerning identification codes and codes used to access various VA automated communications systems and records systems, as well as security profiles and possible security violations is limited to designated automated systems security personnel who need to know the information in order to maintain and monitor the security of VA's automated communications and veterans' claim records systems. Access to these records in automated form is controlled by individually unique passwords and codes. Agency personnel may have access to the information on a need to know basis when necessary to advise agency security personnel or for use to suspend or revoke access privileges or to make disclosures authorized by a routine use.

4. Access to VA facilities where identification codes, passwords, security profiles and possible security violations are maintained is controlled at all hours by the Federal Protective Service, VA or other security personnel and security access control devices.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:
Copies of back-up computer files will be maintained at primary and secondary VA recipient sites for CMS data (see Appendix 5). Records will be maintained and disposed of in accordance with the records disposal authority approved by the Archivist of the United States, the National Archives and Records Administration, and published in Agency Records Control Schedules.

SYSTEM MANAGER AND ADDRESS:
Manager, Medicare and Medicaid Analysis Center, 100 Grandview Rd., Suite 114, Braintree, MA 02184.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE:
Individuals wishing to inquire whether this system of records contains information about them should submit a signed written request to the Manager, Medicare and Medicaid Analysis Center, 100 Grandview Rd., Suite 114, Braintree, MA 02184.

RECORDS ACCESS PROCEDURES:
An individual who seeks access to records maintained under his or her name or other personal identifier may write the System Manager named above and specify the information being contested.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:
(See Records Access Procedures above).

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:
Information may be obtained from the Patient Medical Records System (24VA136), Patient Fee Basis Medical and Pharmacy Records (23VA136), Veterans and Beneficiaries Identification and Records Location Subsystem (38VA23), Compensation, Pension, Education and Rehabilitation Records (58VA21/22), all other potential VA and non-VA
sources of veteran demographic information, and CMS databases. The records also include
information from: Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans
Affairs (CHAMPVA), VA/DOD Identity Repository (VADIR), as well as the OEF/OIF roster
(Defense Manpower Data Center), and United States Renal Data System (USRDS).

VA APPENDIX 5

1. VA Medicare and Medicaid Analysis Center, field unit of the Office of the Assistant
   Deputy Under Secretary for Health (ADUSH) for Policy and Planning, 100 Grandview Rd.,
   Suite 114, Braintree, MA 02184.

2. VA/CMS Data for Research Project VA Information Resource Center (151V) Hines VA
   Hospital (578) 5000 South 5th Avenue Building 18 Hines, IL 60141-3030.

3. Office of the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health (ADUSH) for Policy and
   Planning, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420.

4. Austin Information Technology Center, 1615 Woodward Street, Austin, TX 78772.

5. VA facilities.