



***VA Information Resource Center***  
***Data Issues Brief***  
December 2001

**1. VHA Office of Quality & Performance Issues Data Access Policy**

The VHA Office of Quality and Performance (OQP) Web site on the VA Intranet now includes the office's policies and forms for requesting access to OQP data. As stated there, OQP's data access policy "covers the areas of responsibilities and requirements for the utilization or distribution of databases that are under the stewardship of the Office of Quality and Performance (OQP) to investigators or organizations that are internal to VA or to contractors that are working with VA organizations in order to support valid research and the improvement of veterans healthcare delivery." For full information, consult the OQP Intranet Web site, or call (202) 273-8936.

**2. VIREC Issues Inpatient and Outpatient Data Resource Guides for FY2000**

The VIREC resource guides for users of SAS<sup>®</sup> datasets for VHA inpatient (PTF) and outpatient (NPCD/OPC) data at Austin have been updated for FY2000. The guides can be downloaded from the VIREC Web site:

*The Medical SAS<sup>®</sup> Inpatient Datasets - FY00: A VIREC Resource Guide, (188p.)*

[http://www.virec.research.med.va.gov/Inpatient\\_Data\\_Resource\\_Guide\\_FY00.PDF](http://www.virec.research.med.va.gov/Inpatient_Data_Resource_Guide_FY00.PDF)

*The Medical SAS<sup>®</sup> Outpatient Datasets - FY00: A VIREC Resource Guide, (101p.)*

[http://www.virec.research.med.va.gov/Outpatient\\_Data\\_Resource\\_Guide\\_FY00.PDF](http://www.virec.research.med.va.gov/Outpatient_Data_Resource_Guide_FY00.PDF)

**3. New VIREC Resource Guide Has Select Variable Frequencies**

In conjunction with the updated resource guides for FY2000 inpatient and outpatient SAS<sup>®</sup> datasets, VIREC is providing a resource guide of variable frequencies for select fields in the VHA data. This guide is expected to be useful to researchers, and also to VA administrators and managers. The new resource guide can be downloaded from the VIREC Web site:

*Select Variable Frequencies for the Medical SAS<sup>®</sup> Inpatient and Outpatient Datasets - FY00: A VIREC Resource Guide, (97p.)*

[http://www.virec.research.med.va.gov/Inpt\\_Outpt\\_Frequency\\_Tables\\_FY00.PDF](http://www.virec.research.med.va.gov/Inpt_Outpt_Frequency_Tables_FY00.PDF)

Questions about any of the VIREC resource guides should be directed to the VA Information Resource Center: <mailto:virec@research.hines.med.va.gov> or (708) 202-2413.

*Data Issues Briefs* are developed by the staff of the VA Information Resource Center (VIREC) for the purpose of informing and updating VA researchers on current and pending happenings and changes regarding health data, databases, and medical informatics. *Data Issues Briefs* are produced on a monthly basis and are distributed through e-mail subscriptions. Previous releases are posted and available on the VIREC Web site at <http://www.virec.research.med.va.gov>. If you wish to receive future issues directly or have any suggestions or comment about the *Data Issues Briefs*, please send an e-mail message to the VIREC at [virec@research.hines.med.va.gov](mailto:virec@research.hines.med.va.gov) or call (708) 202-2413.