



## VHI-AHRQ Pilot Project “Adding Clinical Data to Administrative Data”

### Frequently Asked Questions

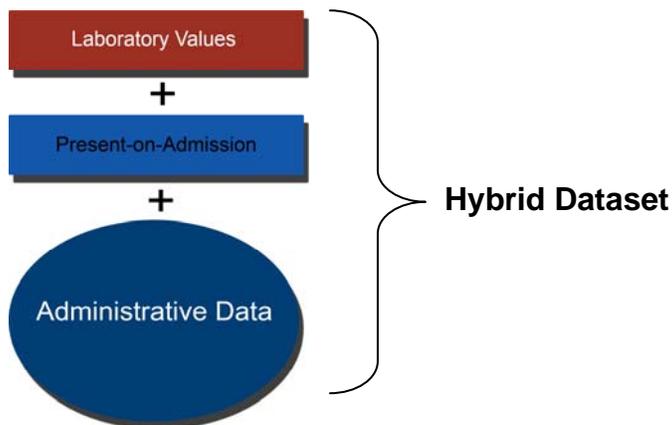
#### POA

**Q: We are currently using the letter “E” to indicate when diagnoses are exempt from POA reporting. However, other information indicates that the number “1” should be used. Which one should we use when we send data to VHI for this project?**

**A:** Nationally, the decision to use the letter “E” OR the number “1” to indicate that a diagnosis is exempt from POA reporting seems to be in a state of transition. Therefore, VHI will accept EITHER for the purposes of this project, as long as the indicator is in the correct position.

**Q: Why is the project website called “hybriddata”?**

**A:** One of the goals of this project is to create an enhanced version of administrative data by adding present-on-admission (POA) indicators and select laboratory values to this dataset. The combination of all three components is referred to as a “hybrid” dataset (see graphic below).



**Q: What is the “VHI Provider Number”?**

**A:** The VHI Provider Number is the Medicare Provider Number (MPN). A look-up table is provided on the website.



**Q: For the POA file, why are the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> positions in the diagnosis codes always left blank?**

A: VHI is reserving those positions in the diagnosis fields to account for the use of longer ICD-10 codes at some point in the future.

**Q: What is the naming convention for quarterly file transfer?**

A: For POA indicators: HospName\_POA\_(date of transfer)  
(example: Sentara\_POA\_06JUN2008)

For LAB values: HospName\_LAB\_(date of transfer)  
(example: Sentara\_LAB\_06JUN2008)

**Q: What if we have more than 3 ECODES?**

A: VHI will accept more than 3 ECODES at the end of the POA record layout. If you have more than 3 ECODES to send, please follow the order and formatting provided in the POA record layout.

**Q: Do the columns in the POA record need to have column names?**

A: No. If the fixed record layout is maintained, then VHI will know the name of the data element that corresponds to any given position in the record.

**Q: Are nursing home discharges excluded from the POA transfer?**

A: Yes.

**Q: What is the date of the first data transfer?**

A: The first data transfer, which includes both POA and LAB values, is July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

## **LAB**

**Q: For the lab value file, what kinds of comments are you looking for in the comments field?**

A: This field will help VHI understand the validity and/or the extremes in values that are received. For example, if a lab request with a hemolyzed blood sample is received, the comments field would usually state "Sample hemolyzed". (Ideally, these lab values would not be reported and test not performed, thus, this comment would be only be helpful to understand why a lab value was not reported.) There may be additional scenarios where the lab value is valid but



extreme (e.g., “panic value”). Although VHI will be able to detect this value numerically, it may prove useful to see comments.