Appendix

Survey Questions

The purpose of this survey is to gather information on how researchers have used VA electronic and administrative data to identify pain. Your answers and comments will provide guidance for pain researchers.

Instructions:

1. This survey is anonymous; please do not include any personally identifying information.
2. We are asking about your (or your teams) use of VHA electronic and administrative data _only_.
3. Please attempt to answer all items

1. What is your _primary_ affiliation? (Choose 1 that best applies)

[] VHA

[] DOD

[] University

[] Other

If **Not** VHA, do you have VA WOC status? [] Yes [] No

2. What is your professional discipline? (Check all that apply)

() Chiropractic (DC, DCM)

() Doctoral level nurse (PhD, DNSc, DNP)

() Economist (PhD)

() Epidemiologist (PhD, DrPH)

() Pharmacist (PharmD, RPh)

() Physician (MD, DO)

() Physician Assistant (PA)

() Physiotherapist (DPT)

() Psychologist (PhD, PsyD)

() Statistician/Biostatistician (PhD)

() Social Worker

() Other, please specify: _____

3. What is your primary service or department? (Choose 1 that best applies)

[] General Medicine/Internal Medicine

[] Neurology

[] Nursing

[] Mental Health/Psychiatry

[] Pharmacy

[] Research

[] Women's Clinic

[] VACO

[] Other, please specify: _____

4. What is the primary focus of your pain research? (Choose 1 that best applies)

[] Back Pain

[] Blast-Related Injuries, including TBI

[] Cancer

[] Chronic Pain

[] Headache

[] Musculoskeletal

[] Neuropathic pain

[] Pain treatment

[] Palliative Care

[] Spinal Cord Injury

[] Surgical or peri-operative pain

[] Other, please specify: _____

5. In what VHA care settings have you conducted pain research? (Check all that apply)

() Inpatient

() Outpatient

() Emergency Department

() Surgical

() Other, please specify: _____

6. Have you been PI or co-PI on any funded research where pain is the _primary_ focus?

[] No

[] Yes

6a. If YES, what was the source of funding for your most _recent_ pain-related research?

[] VHA

[] DOD

[] NIH

[] Other

7. Have you used any of these VHA electronic and administrative data in research to identify the presence of pain? (Check all that apply)

	Used to identify the presence of pain?	How valid do you think this data is, even if you have NOT used it?
		1 not valid – 7 valid
CPRS notes	() No () Yes	① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦
CPT codes	() No () Yes	① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦
Chief complaint	() No () Yes	① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦
Discharge summary	() No () Yes	① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦
ICD9 codes	() No () Yes	① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦
Pain NRS scores	() No () Yes	① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦
Pharmacy	() No () Yes	① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦
Stop codes	() No () Yes	① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦
Other: _____	() No () Yes	① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦

8. Have you used any of these other VHA resources in your pain research? (Check all that apply)

() Beneficiary Identification & Records Locator System (BIRLS) - Death File

() Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW)

() Decision Support System (DSS)

() Bar Code Medication Administration (BCMA)

() Health Analysis and Information Group (HAIG) Pain Management Survey data

() Health Economics Resource Center (HERC)

Abel EA, Brandt CA, Czlapinski R, Goulet JL. Pain research using Veterans Health Administration electronic and administrative data sources. J Rehail Res Dev. 2016;53(1):XX–XX.

() Medical SAS Datasets (a.k.a. Austin data)

() National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP)

() Northeast Program Evaluation Center (NEPEC)

() Serious Mental Illness Treatment Resource and Evaluation Center (SMITREC)

() Survey of Healthcare Experiences of Patients (SHEP)

() VA Information Resource Center (VIReC)

() Other VHA data source(s) _____

() I have not used any VHA electronic or administrative data sources or resources for pain research **(GOTO BARRIERS)**

The next questions ask about your most <u>recent</u> research using VHA electronic and administrative data:

9a. how did you define pain (e.g. back pain was defined using ICD codes 724, 7240x, 7241x, 7242x, 7243x, 7244x, 7245x, 7246x, 7247x, 8460x, or 8472x; a pain NRS score of 4 or greater; etc.)

9b. did you distinguish between chronic and acute pain?

[] No

[] Yes

9b1. If YES, how did you define chronic pain (e.g. 2 or more NRS of 4 or greater in a one year period)?

9c. did you construct a comparison or control group (e.g. pts. without pain)?

[] No

[] Yes

9d. did you examine recurrence of pain?

[] No

[] Yes

9e. what geographic area did you examine?

[] Single clinic

[] Local VA facility

[] VISN

[] Region

[] National

[] Other

10. Have you published any pain-focused peer-reviewed papers using VHA electronic and administrative data?

[] No

[] Yes

11. Are following barriers to your use of VHA electronic and administrative data for pain-related research? (Check all that apply)

	(1) Not a Barrier	(2) Minor Barrier	(3) Major Barrier
Concerns about data quality (e.g. completeness, lack of validation)	□	□	□
Concerns about data security	□	□	□
Data management issues (cleaning data, etc.)	□	□	□
Inability to access the data	□	□	□
Insufficient level of detail in the data	□	□	□
Lack of expertise in analyzing the data	□	□	□
Lack of hardware to house the data (computer storage)	□	□	□
Lack of standardization of data (e.g. site variation)	□	□	□
Privacy/HIPAA concerns	□	□	□
Timeliness of data	□	□	□
None of the above	□	□	□
Other	□	□	□

12. Do you think VHA electronic and administrative data are adequate for pain research?

[] No

[] Yes

13. How would you improve VHA electronic and administrative data for pain research?

14. Would you be willing to participate in an expert panel to discuss issues in pain research using VHA data?

[] No

[] Yes

15. Other Comments: (optional)