Privacy Impact Assessment for the VA IT System called:

Veterans Benefits Management System
Package Manager

Veteran Benefits Administration (VBA)

Date PIA submitted for review:
April 29, 2022

System Contacts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Privacy Officer</td>
<td>Jean-Claude Wicks</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Jean-Claude.wicks@VA.gov">Jean-Claude.wicks@VA.gov</a></td>
<td>202-502-0084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information System Security Officer (ISSO)</td>
<td>Joseph Faccioli</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Joseph.faccioli@va.gov">Joseph.faccioli@va.gov</a></td>
<td>215-842-2000 x2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information System Owner</td>
<td>Tushar Dode</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Tushar.Dode@va.gov">Tushar.Dode@va.gov</a></td>
<td>(215) 381-3044</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
System Contacts

Abstract

The abstract provides the simplest explanation for “what does the system do?” and will be published online to accompany the PIA link.

Package Manager is an application that is used to combine existing documents or templated standard enclosures for a specific Veteran into a virtual package. The documents are produced and generated within the Veterans Benefits Management System. The systems is managed by a group of Veterans Service Representatives. These packages then can have specific recipients (whether the Veteran, Power Of Attorney, dependent, etc.) defined for them, most commonly through a physical mailing address. This package and recipient information is then able to be submitted to a 3rd party shipping vendor, Centralized Benefits Communication Management (CBCM). This vendor will print the documents and enclosures and send them to the specified recipient. System classification is moderate.

Overview

The overview is the most important section of the PIA. A thorough and clear overview gives the reader the appropriate context to understand the responses in the PIA. The overview should contain the following elements:

- The IT system name and the name of the program office that owns the IT system.
- The business purpose of the program, IT system, or technology and how it relates to the program office and agency mission.
- Indicate the ownership or control of the IT system or project.
- The expected number of individuals whose information is stored in the system and a brief description of the typical client or affected individual.
- A general description of the information in the IT system and the purpose for collecting this information.
- Any information sharing conducted by the IT system. A general description of the modules and subsystems, where relevant, and their functions.
- Whether the system is operated in more than one site, and if so, a description of how use of the system and PII is maintained consistently in all sites and if the same controls are used across sites.
- A citation of the legal authority to operate the IT system.
- Whether the completion of this PIA will result in circumstances that require changes to business processes.
- Whether the completion of this PIA could potentially result in technology changes.
- If the system is in the process of being modified and a SORN exists, will the SORN require amendment or revision and approval? If the system is using cloud technology, does the SORN for the system cover cloud usage or storage?

The Benefits Integration Platform (BIP) BIP Package Management application is owned, built, and managed by the benefits, appeals, and memorial (BAM) Program office in the Office of Information Technology (OIT).
BIP Package Manager is utilized to assist in mailing required correspondence to both Veterans and those involved in resolving outstanding correspondence and documentation needs to ensure benefits are delivered to Veterans.

The BIP Package Manager minor application is owned, built, and managed by the benefits, appeals, and memorial (BAM) Program office in the Office of Information Technology (OIT). The number of individuals is constantly increasing. A typical client is a veteran or dependent who is filing a claim for benefits with the VA.

The application accesses data stored in the VBMS Core database related to correspondence transactions.

Benefits Integration Platform (BIP) provides a container-based application platform in VAEC AWS in which VA benefits, appeals, and memorial (BAM) and Federal Tax Information (FTI) applications can be hosted. The platform leverages Red Hat OpenShift and Kubernetes clusters for container management and orchestration, which allows teams to develop, scale, and deliver modern, secure, and properly segmented (from a storage, network, and compute perspective) applications in a multi-tenant environment. The AWS Virtual Private Clouds (VPCs) within BIP are sequentially peered to allow connectivity between VPCs, which supports the promotion of container images from lower VPCs to higher VPCs. The peering is essential for DevOps and Agile methodologies and is locked down to only allow container images to be mirrored between registries in each VPC. BIP also leverages a suite of TRM approved COTS tools (e.g., Jenkins, SonarQube, Vault, Nexus, Consul) to help development teams deliver quickly and effectively. In addition, BIP, as a General Support Systems (GSS), will further support VA minor application tenants by constraining the controls necessary for applications hosted on the platform.

Minor applications and application programming interfaces (APIs) hosted on BIP Assessing and Secure Enclave on VAEC AWS include but are not limited to Vet Services Awards, Vet Services Ratings, Beneficiary and Fiduciary Field System (BFFS)/Veterans Benefit Management System (VBMS) Fiduciary, BIP Reference Person, Benefits Processing Data Service (BPDS), Benefits Security Services (BSS), Contention Classification Predictive Service (CCPS), Claim Automation Processor, Notes API, Veterans Benefit Management System (VBMS) Users API, Veteran API, Vet Services Claims, Compensation and Pension User Interface, Data Synchronization, Document Generator (DocGen), Enterprise Management Payment Workload and Reporting (eMPWR), FAS Notes, VBMS Transfer, Exam Destination, Exam Management, Fiduciary Service, FTI Capture, FTI File Repo, FTI Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP), Integrated Benefits Services (IBS), Memorial Benefits Management System (MBMS), Package Manager (Pac Man), Pension Automation, Records Research Center (RRC), VASRD, VBMS Correspondence (VBMS-C), and Veteran Enterprise File Services (VEFS).

BIP Assessing and the Secure Enclave is operated in a single Region of the VA Enterprise Cloud (VAEC) in Amazon Web Services (AWS) GovCloud, deployed across three Availability Zones. Security and privacy data held by a cloud provider is still required to meet the requirements under the privacy act. Federal agencies are required to identify and assess the risk to their PII, and to ensure security controls are implemented to provide adequate safeguards. Section C MM. of the contract references OMB Memorandum “Security

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VA Enterprise Cloud Solutions group partnered with Amazon Web Services (AWS) a FedRAMP provider to offer VA programs the opportunity to host cloud applications. The production environment is hosted in AWS under VA Enterprise Cloud Solutions Office (ECSO) General Support System (GSS) and accredited as FISMA “HIGH” categorization. Custody and ownership of PII and PHI are solely the responsibility of the VA as a tenant of AWS, in accordance with VA policy and NIST 800-144. Both AWS and the VA have a tremendous interest in maintaining security of PII and PHI, including (but not limited to) HIPAA Enforcement Rule of 2006, HIPAA Omnibus, and HITECH. AWS is responsible for physical security, infrastructure security, network and communications for the facility. VA is responsible for the maintaining application, data and system security for the program. VA is the sole owner of all data stored within the system.

The contract outlines Management of Security and Privacy Incidents in accordance with VA Handbook 6500.2. Based on determinations of independent risk analysis, the Contractor shall be responsible for paying to VA liquidated damages for affected individuals to cover the cost of providing credit protection services to affected individuals. CSPs are required to meet the same requirements when operating on behalf of the federal government.

The secure enclave has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Office of Safeguards (memo FD698-FED-AWS GovCloud-L-031020) as adequately implementing the safeguards outlined in IRS Publication 1075 and in accordance with Internal Revenue Code §6103(p)(4). Legal authority for Federal Tax Information, to include identity information, be shared between Department of the Treasury/IRS and VA is codified in Internal Revenue Code §6103(l)(7), with identity information codified in §6103(b)(6). The ISA/MOU governing the information exchange between IRS and VA is codified in DART 52. As for the Veteran eFolder upon which FTI documents will be available within, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs established guidelines pursuant to the authorities in and requirements of Title 38, United States Code, section 81 11 (38 U.S.C. 5811 I), titled "Sharing of Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense Health Care Resources," and the authorities contained under Title 10, United States Code, section 1104 (10 U.S.C. 51 1104), titled "Sharing of Resources with the Department of Veterans Affairs," which incorporates Title 31, United States Code, section 1535 (31 U.S.C. 51 535), titled "Agency Agreements," also known as the "Economy Act." These guidelines assist in the implementation of these statutes.

Completion of this PIA will not result in circumstances requiring changes to business processes. Completion of this PIA is not anticipated to result in technology changes. The SORN will not require amendment or revision. The current SORN covers cloud usage and storage.

**Section 1. Characterization of the Information**

The following questions are intended to define the scope of the information requested and collected as well as the reasons for its collection as part of the program, IT system, or technology being developed.

**1.1 What information is collected, used, disseminated, created, or maintained in the system?**

*Identify and list all Sensitive Personal Information (SPI) that is collected and stored in the system, including Individually Identifiable Information (III), Individually Identifiable Health Information (IIHI), Protected Health Information (PHI), and Privacy-Protected Information. For additional information on these information types and definitions, please see VA Directives and Handbooks in the 6500 series.*
If the system creates information (for example, a score, analysis, or report), list the information the system is responsible for creating.

If a requesting system receives information from another system, such as a response to a background check, describe what information is returned to the requesting system.

This question is related to privacy control AP-1, Authority To Collect, and AP-2, Purpose Specification.

The information selected below must match the information provided in question 2.1 as well as the data elements columns in 4.1 and 5.1.

Please check any information listed below that your system collects, uses, disseminates, creates, or maintains. If additional SPI is collected, used, disseminated, created, or maintained, please list those in the text box below:

☑ Name
☑ Social Security Number
☐ Date of Birth
☐ Mother’s Maiden Name
☑ Personal Mailing Address
☑ Personal Phone Number(s)
☑ Personal Fax Number
☐ Emergency Contact Information (Name, Phone Number, etc. of a different individual)

☐ Financial Account Information
☐ Health Insurance Beneficiary Numbers Account numbers
☐ Certificate/License numbers
☐ Vehicle License Plate Number
☐ Internet Protocol (IP) Address Numbers
☐ Current Medications
☐ Previous Medical Records

☐ Race/Ethnicity
☐ Tax Identification Number
☐ Medical Record Number
☐ Gender
☐ Integration Control Number (ICN)
☐ Military History/Service Connection
☐ Next of Kin
☐ Other Unique Identifying Information (USI Metadata)

PII Mapping of Components

BIP Package Manager consists of varying key components including VBMS Core and Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). Each component has been analyzed to determine if any elements of that component collect PII. The type of PII collected by the mapped components and the reasons for the collection of the PII are in the table below.

PII Mapped to Components
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database Name of the information system collecting/storing PII</th>
<th>Does this system collect PII? (Yes/No)</th>
<th>Does this system store PII? (Yes/No)</th>
<th>Type of PII (SSN, DOB, etc.)</th>
<th>Reason for Collection/Storage of PII</th>
<th>Safeguards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VBMS Core; Package Manager is an integration with VBMS Core.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Veteran identifiers (may include SSN), name, address, phone number, fax number, personal email and other unique identifying number.</td>
<td>Placement of information onto a generated document.</td>
<td>Authentication is required to interact with the Service. API keys are shared with consumers as part of an approval process with the Information Security Officer (ISO). All data traverses the network via SSL (HTTPS).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Benefits Administration – BGS (Benefits Gateway Services) Web Services</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>• Name • Social Security Number • Date of Birth • Personal Mailing Address • Personal Phone Number(s) • Personal Fax Number1 • Personal Email Address • Other Unique Identifying Number</td>
<td>BGS is the gateway into the Corp DB which was previously the authoritative source for most of the Veteran and Claim data for VBA.</td>
<td>Authentication is required to interact with the Service. API keys are shared with consumers as part of an approval process with the Information Security Officer (ISO). All data traverses the network via SSL (HTTPS).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.2 What are the sources of the information in the system?

List the individual, entity, or entities providing the specific information identified above. For example, is the information collected directly from the individual as part of an application for a benefit, or is it collected from other sources such as commercial data aggregators?

Describe why information from sources other than the individual is required. For example, if a program’s system is using data from a commercial aggregator of information or data taken from public Web sites, state the fact that this is where the information is coming from and then in question 1.3 indicate why the system is using this source of data.

If the system creates information (for example, a score, analysis, or report), list the system as a source of information. 
This question is related to privacy controls DI-1, Data Quality, and IP-1, Consent.

BIP Package Manager application accesses data stored in the VBMS Core Database as well as data stored in CorpDB via BGS services. In the Secure Enclave, Veteran Service Representatives (VSRs) processing pension claims access this information to request field examination.

1.3 How is the information collected?

This question is directed at the means of collection from the sources listed in question 1.2. Information may be collected directly from an individual, received via electronic transmission from another system, or created by the system itself. Specifically, is information collected through technologies or other technologies used in the storage or transmission of information in identifiable form?

If the information is collected on a form and is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act, give the form’s OMB control number and the agency form number.
This question is related to privacy controls DI-1, Data Quality, and IP-1, Consent.

The BIP Package Manager application collects information via HTTPS protocol into the VBMS (Veterans Benefits Management System) Core application.

1.4 How will the information be checked for accuracy? How often will it be checked?

Discuss whether and how often information stored in the system is checked for accuracy. Is information in the system checked against any other source of information (within or outside your organization) before the information is used to make decisions about an individual? For example, is there a computer matching agreement in place with another government agency? For systems that
receive data from internal data sources or VA IT systems, describe the system checks to ensure that
data corruption has not occurred during transmission.

If the system checks for accuracy by accessing a commercial aggregator of information, describe this
process and the levels of accuracy required by the contract.
This question is related to privacy controls DI-1, Data Quality, and DI-2, Data Integrity and
Integrity Board.

In the Secure Enclave, standard operating procedures (SOPs) are in place at the Pension Centers
to perform quality control on data related to each claim. The claim level quality control checks
are performed before award, and random claim samples are also collected monthly for further
review by quality control specialists.

1.5 What specific legal authorities, arrangements, and agreements defined the collection of
information?

List the full legal authority for operating the system, specifically the authority to collect the
information listed in question 1.1. Provide the authorities in a manner understandable to any
potential reader, i.e., do not simply provide a legal citation; use statute names or regulations in
addition to citations. Legal authorities include Federal laws, regulations, statutes, and Executive
Orders.
This question is related to privacy control AP-1, Authority to Collect

The System of Record Notice (SORN) ‘Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational
Rehabilitation and Employment Records—VA’ (58VA21/22/28).
§ 552a, Privacy Act of 1974, As Amended IRS memo FD698-FED-AWS GovCloud-L-031020
For the Secure Enclave, legal authority for Federal Tax Information, to include identity
information, be shared between Department of the Treasury/IRS and VA is codified in Internal
Revenue Code §6103(l)(7), with identity information codified in §6103(b)(6). The ISA/MOU
governing the information exchange between IRS and VA is codified in DART 52. As for the
Veteran eFolder in Virtual VA (VVA) within which FTI documents will be available, the
Secretary of Veterans Affairs established guidelines pursuant to the authorities in and
requirements of Title 38, United States Code, section 8111 (38 U.S.C. 5811 I), titled "Sharing of
Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense Health Care Resources," and the
authorities contained under Title 10, United States Code, section 1104 (10 U.S.C.5 1104), titled
"Sharing of Resources with the Department of Veterans Affairs," which incorporates Title 31,
United States Code, section 1535 (31 U.S.C. 51 535), titled "Agency Agreements," also known
as the "Economy Act." These guidelines assist in the implementation of these statutes.
1.6 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Characterization of the information
Consider the specific data elements collected and discuss the potential privacy risks and what steps, if any, are currently being taken to mitigate those identified risks.

Consider the following Fair Information Practice Principles (FIPPs) when assessing the risk to individual privacy:

**Principle of Purpose Specification:** Explain how the collection ties with the purpose of the underlying mission of the organization and its enabling authority.

**Principle of Minimization:** Is the information directly relevant and necessary to accomplish the specific purposes of the program?

**Principle of Individual Participation:** Does the program, to the extent possible and practical, collect information directly from the individual?

**Principle of Data Quality and Integrity:** Are there policies and procedures for VA to ensure that personally identifiable information is accurate, complete, and current?

This question is related to privacy control AR-1, Governance and Privacy Program, and AR-2, Privacy Impact and Risk Assessment.

Follow the format below when entering your risk assessment:

**Privacy Risk:** The Package Manager minor application does not store or collect PII. It simply acts as a pass through, but none of the data is retained.

**Mitigation:** The information passed through Package Manager is secured using specific signing, encryption, and Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) injection techniques. Any PII that is gathered is not retained.

**Section 2. Uses of the Information**

The following questions are intended to clearly delineate the use of information and the accuracy of the data being used.

2.1 Describe how the information in the system will be used in support of the program’s business purpose.

*Identify and list each use (both internal and external to VA) of the information collected or maintained.*

*This question is related to privacy control AP-2, Purpose Specification.*

The information accessed in the VBMS Core Database will be used to provide correspondence details to Veteran Service Representatives and track the fulfillment of mailings. The SSN will be
used as an identifier to link to other correspondence. The First and Last names will be used to populate the actual mailings sent to or in reference to the Veteran along with address data.

### 2.2 What types of tools are used to analyze data and what type of data may be produced?

Many systems sift through large amounts of information in response to a user inquiry or programmed functions. Systems may help identify areas that were previously not obvious and need additional research by agents, analysts, or other employees. Some systems perform complex analytical tasks resulting in, among other types of data, matching, relational analysis, scoring, reporting, or pattern analysis. Describe any type of analysis the system conducts and the data that is created from the analysis.

If the system creates or makes available new or previously unutilized information about an individual, explain what will be done with the newly derived information. Will it be placed in the individual's existing record? Will a new record be created? Will any action be taken against or for the individual identified because of the newly derived data? If a new record is created, will the newly created information be accessible to Government employees who make determinations about the individual? If so, explain fully under which circumstances and by whom that information will be used.

**This question is related to privacy controls DI-1, Data Quality, DI-2, Data Integrity and Integrity Board, and SE-1, Inventory of Personally Identifiable Information.**

BIP does not perform any kind of data analysis or run analytic task. Data will only be stored in the secure enclave; no new data will be analyzed or created.

### 2.3 How is the information in the system secured?

#### 2.3a What measures are in place to protect data in transit and at rest?

#### 2.3b If the system is collecting, processing, or retaining Social Security Numbers, are there additional protections in place to protect SSNs?

#### 2.3c How is PII/PHI safeguarded in accordance with OMB Memorandum M-06-15?

**This question is related to security and privacy controls SC-9, Transmission Confidentiality, and SC-28, Protection of Information at Rest**

BIP protects the confidentiality and integrity of the transmitted information within the system boundary. BIP Platform utilizes Amazon Elastic Block Storage (EBS) for platform component storage, including platform operational state from the distributed state model, as well as for log files and log aggregators that could contain PII/PHI from BIP minor applications. Amazon EBS provides encryption of the volumes.

### 2.4 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Use of the information. How is access to the PII determined? Are criteria, procedures, controls, and responsibilities regarding access
documented? Does access require manager approval? Is access to the PII being monitored, tracked, or recorded? Who is responsible for assuring safeguards for the PII?

Describe any types of controls that may be in place to ensure that information is handled in accordance with the uses described above. Example: Describe if training for users of the project covers how to appropriately use information. Describe the disciplinary programs or system controls (i.e. denial of access) that are in place if an individual is inappropriately using the information.

Consider the following FIPPs below to assist in providing a response:

**Principle of Transparency:** Is the PIA and SORN, if applicable, clear about the uses of the information?

**Principle of Use Limitation:** Is the use of information contained in the system relevant to the mission of the project?

This question is related to privacy control AR-4, Privacy Monitoring and Auditing, AR-5, Privacy Awareness and Training, and SE-2, Privacy Incident response.

Not applicable. The Package Manager minor application does not store or collect PII, but merely acts as a pass through of the needed data. The data is not stored.

**Section 3. Retention of Information**

The following questions are intended to outline how long information will be retained after the initial collection.

3.1 What information is retained?

Identify and list all information collected from question 1.1 that is retained by the system.

This question is related to privacy controls DM-1, Minimization of Personally Identifiable Information, and DM-2, Data Retention and Disposal.

In the secure enclave, all data is retained and stored in the repository. BIP follows VA Directive 6309 to ensure that the collection of information is needed; is not unnecessarily duplicative; reduces, to the extent feasible, the burden on respondents; is written in clear and understandable terms; is to be implemented in a way consistent with existing reporting and record keeping practices and that the records are retained for the length of time outlined within the record keeping requirement (General Records Schedule or Records Control Schedule). System record keeping practices and that the records are retained for the length of time outlined within the record keeping requirement (General Records Schedule or Records Control Schedule). VA follows its Record Control Schedule and the NARA General Records Schedule (GRS) for records retention and disposition.
3.2 How long is information retained?

In some cases VA may choose to retain files in active status and archive them after a certain period of time. State active file retention periods, as well as archived records, in number of years, for the information and record types. For example, financial data held within your system may have a different retention period than medical records or education records held within your system, please be sure to list each of these retention periods. If the system is using cloud technology, will it be following the NARA approved retention length and schedule?

The VA records officer should be consulted early in the development process to ensure that appropriate retention and destruction schedules are implemented.
This question is related to privacy control DM-2, Data Retention and Disposal.

Information is retained for an indefinite period.

3.3 Has the retention schedule been approved by the VA records office and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)? If so please indicate the name of the records retention schedule.

An approved records schedule must be obtained for any IT system that allows the retrieval of a record via a personal identifier. The VA records officer will assist in providing a proposed schedule. The schedule must be formally offered to NARA for official approval. Once NARA approves the proposed schedule, the VA records officer will notify the system owner.
This question is related to privacy control DM-2, Data Retention and Disposal.

In general, these records are retained and disposed of in accordance with the General Records Schedule 3.1 and 3.2 (GRS 20), approved by National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) https://www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/grs.html and Veterans Benefits Administration Records Control Schedule VB-1, Parts I and II at https://www.benefits.va.gov/WARMS/docs/regs/RCS_I.doc, https://www.benefits.va.gov/WARMS/docs/regs/RCS_II.doc. As determined by the VA Records Management Officer, the PII data specifically stored by the VBMS-Fiduciary application does not meet the definition of “record” as defined by https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/44/3301 and therefore does not have an assigned disposition schedule.

3.4 What are the procedures for the elimination of SPI?
Explain how records are destroyed or eliminated at the end of the retention period. Please give the details of the process. For example, are paper records shredded on site, or by a shredding company and accompanied by a certificate of destruction, etc?
This question is related to privacy control DM-2, Data Retention and Disposal

Information is not retained by Package Manager. Controls have been established to ensure contents that are collected are secured using specific signing, encryption, and Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) injection techniques.

3.5 Does the system, where feasible, use techniques to minimize the risk to privacy by using PII for research, testing, or training?

Organizations often use PII for testing new applications or information systems prior to deployment. Organizations also use PII for research purposes and for training. These uses of PII increase the risks associated with the unauthorized disclosure or misuse of the information. Please explain what controls have been implemented to protect PII used for testing, training and research. Have policies and procedures been developed to minimize the use of PII for testing, training, and research?
This question is related to privacy control DM-3, Minimization of PII Used in Testing, Training and Research

Yes. No PII data is used in testing or development environments. Only production system admins have access to production environments.

3.6 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Retention of information

Discuss the risks associated with the length of time data is retained and what steps, if any, are currently being taken to mitigate those identified risks.

While we understand that establishing retention periods for records is a formal process, there are policy considerations behind how long a project keeps information. The longer a project retains information, the longer it needs to secure the information and assure its accuracy and integrity. The proposed schedule should match the requirements of the Privacy Act to keep the minimum amount of PII for the minimum amount of time, while meeting the Federal Records Act. The schedule should align with the stated purpose and mission of the system.

Consider the following FIPPs below to assist in providing a response:

Principle of Minimization: Does the project retain only the information necessary for its purpose? Is the PII retained only for as long as necessary and relevant to fulfill the specified purposes?

Principle of Data Quality and Integrity: Has the PIA described policies and procedures for how PII that is no longer relevant and necessary is purged?
This question is related to privacy controls DM-1, Minimization of Personally Identifiable Information, and DM-2, Data Retention and Disposal.
Follow the format below:

**Privacy Risk:** Package Manager does not retain any information collected.

**Mitigation:** Controls have been established to ensure information are secured using specific signing, encryption, and Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) injection techniques.

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**Section 4. Internal Sharing/Receiving/Transmitting and Disclosure**

The following questions are intended to define the scope of information sharing/receiving/transmitting within VA.

**4.1 With which internal organizations is information shared/received/transmitted? What information is shared/received/transmitted, and for what purpose? How is the information transmitted?**

**NOTE:** Question 3.9 (second table) on Privacy Threshold Analysis should be used to answer this question.

Identify and list the names of any program offices, contractor-supported IT systems, and any other organization or IT system within VA with which information is shared.

State the purpose for the internal sharing. If you have specific authority to share the information, provide a citation to the authority.

For each interface with a system outside your program office, state what specific data elements (PII/PHI) are shared with the specific program office, contractor-supported IT system, and any other organization or IT system within VA.

Describe how the information is transmitted. For example, is the information transmitted electronically, by paper, or by some other means? Is the information shared in bulk, on a case-by-case basis, or does the sharing partner have direct access to the information? This question is related to privacy controls AP-2, Purpose Specification, AR-3, Privacy Requirements for Contractors and Service Providers, AR-8, Accounting of Disclosures, TR-1, Privacy Notice, and UL-1, Internal Use.
**Data Shared with Internal Organizations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List the Program Office or IT System information is shared/received with</th>
<th>List the purpose of the information being shared/received with the specified program office or IT system</th>
<th>List the specific PII/PHI data elements that are processed (shared/received/transmitted) with the Program Office or IT system</th>
<th>Describe the method of transmittal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VBMS Core (Veterans Benefit Management System); Package Manager is integrated with the VBMS Core application.</td>
<td>VBMS Core shares information with BIP Package Manager to request and track the fulfillment of correspondence.</td>
<td>Veteran identifiers (may include SSN), name, address, phone number, fax number, personal email and other unique identifying number.</td>
<td>HTTPS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**4.2 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Internal sharing and disclosure**

Discuss the privacy risks associated with the sharing of information within the Department and what steps, if any, are currently being taken to mitigate those identified risks. 

This question is related to privacy control UL-1, Internal Use.

Follow the format below:

**Privacy Risk:** The privacy risk associated with maintaining SPI is that this data may be disclosed to individuals who do not require access, which would increase the risk of the information being misused.

**Mitigation:** Safeguards are implemented to ensure data is not sent to unauthorized VA employees, including employee security and privacy training, and required reporting of suspicious activity. Use of secure passwords, access for need-to-know basis, Personal Identification Verification (PIV) Cards, Personal Identification Numbers (PIN), encryption, and access authorization are all measures that are utilized for the system.
Section 5. External Sharing/Receiving and Disclosure

The following questions are intended to define the content, scope, and authority for information sharing external to VA, which includes Federal, State, and local governments, and the private sector.

5.1 With which external organizations (outside VA) is information shared/received? What information is shared/received, and for what purpose? How is the information transmitted and what measures are taken to ensure it is secure?

Is the sharing of information outside the agency compatible with the original collection? If so, is it covered by an appropriate routine use in a SORN? If not, please describe under what legal mechanism the IT system is allowed to share the information in identifiable form or personally identifiable information outside of VA.

NOTE: Question 3.10 on Privacy Threshold Analysis should be used to answer this question.

Identify and list the names of any Federal, State, or local government agency or private sector organization with which information is shared.

For each interface with a system outside VA, state what specific data elements (PII/PHI) are shared with each specific partner.

What legal mechanisms, authoritative agreements, documentation, or policies are in place detailing the extent of the sharing and the duties of each party? For example, is the sharing of data compatible with your SORN? Then list the SORN and the applicable routine use from the SORN. Is there a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Computer Matching Agreement (CMA), or law that mandates the sharing of this information?

Describe how the information is transmitted to entities external to VA and what security measures have been taken to protect it during transmission.

This question is related to privacy control UL-2, Information Sharing with Third Parties

Data Shared with External Organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List External Program Office or IT System information is shared/received with</th>
<th>List the purpose of information being shared / received / transmitted with the specified program office or IT system</th>
<th>List the specific PII/PHI data elements that are processed (shared/received/transmitted) with the Program or IT system</th>
<th>List the legal authority, binding agreement, SORN routine use, etc. that permit external sharing (can be more than one)</th>
<th>List the method of transmission and the measures in place to secure data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
5.2 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: External sharing and disclosure

Discuss the privacy risks associated with the sharing of information outside the Department and what steps, if any, are currently being taken to mitigate those identified risks.

Discuss whether access controls have been implemented and whether audit logs are regularly reviewed to ensure appropriate sharing outside of the Department. For example, is there a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU), contract, or agreement in place with outside agencies or foreign governments.

Discuss how the sharing of information outside of the Department is compatible with the stated purpose and use of the original collection.

This question is related to privacy control AR-2, Privacy Impact and Risk Assessment, AR-3, Privacy Requirements for Contractors and Service Providers, and AR-4, Privacy Monitoring and Auditing.

Follow the format below:

**Privacy Risk:** Address information could be leaked.
Minimal risk.

**Mitigation:** Controls have been established to ensure information are secured using specific signing, encryption, and Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) injection techniques.
Section 6. Notice

The following questions are directed at providing notice to the individual of the scope of information collected, the right to consent to uses of the information, and the right to decline to provide information.

6.1 Was notice provided to the individual before collection of the information? If yes, please provide a copy of the notice as an appendix. (A notice may include a posted privacy policy, a Privacy Act notice on forms, or a system of records notice published in the Federal Register.) If notice was not provided, why not?

This question is directed at the notice provided before collection of the information. This refers to whether the person is aware that his or her information is going to be collected. A notice may include a posted privacy policy, a Privacy Act statement on forms, or a SORN published in the Federal Register. If notice was provided in the Federal Register, provide the citation.

If notice was not provided, explain why. If it was provided, attach a copy of the current notice.

Describe how the notice provided for the collection of information is adequate to inform those affected by the system that their information has been collected and is being used appropriately. Provide information on any notice provided on forms or on Web sites associated with the collection. This question is related to privacy control TR-1, Privacy Notice, and TR-2, System of Records Notices and Privacy Act Statements, and TR-3, Dissemination of Privacy Program Information.

It is the responsibility of client applications that integrate with Package Manager to provide a notice to end users. End users do not interact directly with the API, so a notice is not provided. The System of Record Notice (SORN) ‘Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records—VA’ (58VA21/22/28).


6.2 Do individuals have the opportunity and right to decline to provide information? If so, is a penalty or denial of service attached?

This question is directed at whether the person from or about whom information is collected can decline to provide the information and if so, whether a penalty or denial of service is attached. This question is related to privacy control IP-1, Consent, IP-2, Individual Access, and IP-3, Redress.

It is the responsibility of client applications that integrate with RRC to provide the opportunity to decline providing information.
6.3 Do individuals have the right to consent to particular uses of the information? If so, how does the individual exercise the right?

This question is directed at whether an individual may provide consent for specific uses or the consent is given to cover all uses (current or potential) of his or her information. If specific consent is required, how would the individual consent to each use?
This question is related to privacy control IP-1, Consent

It is the responsibility of client applications that integrate with RRC to provide the opportunity to consent to a particular use of information collected.

6.4 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Notice
Describe the potential risks associated with potentially insufficient notice and what steps, if any, are currently being taken to mitigate those identified risks.

Consider the following FIPPs below to assist in providing a response:

**Principle of Transparency:** Has sufficient notice been provided to the individual?

**Principle of Use Limitation:** Is the information used only for the purpose for which notice was provided either directly to the individual or through a public notice? What procedures are in place to ensure that information is used only for the purpose articulated in the notice?
This question is related to privacy control TR-1, Privacy Notice, AR-2, Privacy Impact and Risk Assessment, and UL-1, Internal Use

Follow the format below:

**Privacy Risk:**
Not applicable.

**Mitigation:**
Not applicable.

Section 7. Access, Redress, and Correction
The following questions are directed at an individual’s ability to ensure the accuracy of the information collected about him or her.

7.1 What are the procedures that allow individuals to gain access to their information?
Cite any procedures or regulations your program has in place that allow access to information. These procedures, at a minimum, should include the agency’s FOIA/Privacy Act practices, but may
also include additional access provisions. For example, if your program has a customer satisfaction unit, that information, along with phone and email contact information, should be listed in this section in addition to the agency’s procedures. See 5 CFR 294 and the VA FOIA Web page at http://www.foia.va.gov/ to obtain information about FOIA points of contact and information about agency FOIA processes.

If the system is exempt from the access provisions of the Privacy Act, please explain the basis for the exemption or cite the source where this explanation may be found, for example, a Final Rule published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

If the system is not a Privacy Act system, please explain what procedures and regulations are in place that covers an individual gaining access to his or her information.

This question is related to privacy control IP-2, Individual Access, and AR-8, Accounting of Disclosures.

VHA Handbook 1605.1 Appendix D ‘Privacy and Release Information’, section 7(b) states the rights of the Veterans to request access to review their records. VA Form 10-5345a, Individual's Request for a Copy of Their Own Health Information, may be used as the written request requirement. All requests to review must be received by direct mail, fax, in person, or by mail referral from another agency or VA office. All requests for access must be delivered to, and reviewed by the System Manager for the concerned VHA system of records, the facility Privacy Officer, or their designee. Each request must be date stamped and reviewed to determine whether the request for access should be granted.

7.2 What are the procedures for correcting inaccurate or erroneous information?

Describe the procedures and provide contact information for the appropriate person to whom such issues should be addressed. If the correction procedures are the same as those given in question 7.1, state as much.

This question is related to privacy control IP-3, Redress, and IP-4, Complaint Management.

Individuals are notified of procedures for correcting their information via SORN published in the Federal Register (58VA21/22/28 86 FR 61858 System Title: Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records-VA.).

Veterans and authorized parties have a statutory right to request a copy of or an amendment to a record in VA’s possession at any time under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Privacy Act (PA). VA has a decentralized system for fulfilling FOIA and PA requests. The type of information or records an individual is seeking will determine the location to which a request should be submitted. For records contained within a VA claims folder (Compensation and Pension claims), or military service medical records in VA’s possession, the request will be fulfilled by the VA Records Management Center. Authorized requestors should mail their Privacy Act or FOIA requests to: Department of Veterans Affairs, Claims Intake Center, P.O. Box 4444, Janesville, WI 53547–4444, DID: 608–373–6690.
7.3 How are individuals notified of the procedures for correcting their information?

How are individuals made aware of the procedures for correcting his or her information? This may be through notice at collection or other similar means. This question is meant to address the risk that even if procedures exist to correct information, if an individual is not made fully aware of the existence of those procedures, then the benefits of the procedures are significantly weakened. This question is related to privacy control IP-3, Redress, and IP-4, Complaint Management.

Individuals are notified of procedures for correcting their information via SORN published in the Federal Register (58VA21/22/28 86 FR 61858 System Title: Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records-VA.). Veterans and authorized parties have a statutory right to request a copy of or an amendment to a record in VA’s possession at any time under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Privacy Act (PA). VA has a decentralized system for fulfilling FOIA and PA requests. The type of information or records an individual is seeking will determine the location to which a request should be submitted. For records contained within a VA claims folder (Compensation and Pension claims), or military service medical records in VA’s possession, the request will be fulfilled by the VA Records Management Center. Authorized requestors should mail their Privacy Act or FOIA requests to: Department of Veterans Affairs, Claims Intake Center, P.O. Box 4444, Janesville, WI 53547-4444, DID: 608–373–6690.

7.4 If no formal redress is provided, what alternatives are available to the individual?

Redress is the process by which an individual gains access to his or her records and seeks corrections or amendments to those records. Redress may be provided through the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and also by other processes specific to a program, system, or group of systems. This question is related to privacy control IP-3, Redress, and IP-4, Complaint Management.

Example: Some projects allow users to directly access and correct/update their information online. This helps ensure data accuracy.

Formal redress procedures are published in the Federal Register per SORN 58VA21/22/28 86 FR 61858 System Title: Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records-VA.
Veterans and authorized parties have a statutory right to request a copy of or an amendment to a record in VA’s possession at any time under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Privacy Act (PA). VA has a decentralized system for fulfilling FOIA and PA requests. The type of information or records an individual is seeking will determine the location to which a request should be submitted. For records contained within a VA claims folder (Compensation and Pension claims), or military service medical records in VA’s possession, the request will be fulfilled by the VA Records Management Center. Authorized requestors should mail their Privacy Act or FOIA requests to: Department of Veterans Affairs, Claims Intake Center, P.O. Box 4444, Janesville, WI 53547–4444, DID: 608–373–6690.

7.5 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Access, redress, and correction

Discuss what risks there currently are related to the Department’s access, redress, and correction policies and procedures for this system and what, if any, steps have been taken to mitigate those risks. For example, if a project does not allow individual access, the risk of inaccurate data needs to be discussed in light of the purpose of the project. For example, providing access to ongoing law enforcement activities could negatively impact the program’s effectiveness because the individuals involved might change their behavior.

Consider the following FIPPs below to assist in providing a response:

Principle of Individual Participation: Is the individual provided with the ability to find out whether a project maintains a record relating to him?

Principle of Individual Participation: If access and/or correction is denied, then is the individual provided notice as to why the denial was made and how to challenge such a denial?

Principle of Individual Participation: Is there a mechanism by which an individual is able to prevent information about him obtained for one purpose from being used for other purposes without his knowledge?

This question is related to privacy control IP-3, Redress.

Follow the format below:

Privacy Risk:
There is a risk that a system provides incorrect information to VBMS Correspondence and Package Manager, and letters are incorrect.

Mitigation:
VBMS Correspondence will include data validation and will provide error messages to client applications if data is invalid or fails business rule processing. It is a responsibility of integration partners to handle errors and present data to end users in a reliable way. Corrections should be handled by the customer facing application.
Section 8. Technical Access and Security

The following questions are intended to describe technical safeguards and security measures.

8.1 What procedures are in place to determine which users may access the system, and are they documented?

*Describe the process by which an individual receives access to the system.*

*Identify users from other agencies who may have access to the system and under what roles these individuals have access to the system. Who establishes the criteria for what PII can be shared?*

*Describe the different roles in general terms that have been created to provide access to the system. For example, certain users may have "read-only" access while others may be permitted to make certain amendments or changes to the information.*

*This question is related to privacy control AR-7, Privacy-Enhanced System Design and Development.*

All users of Package Manager are required to complete annual information system security training activities including security awareness training and specific information system security training. Annual training on VA Privacy and Information Security Awareness is tracked on the VA TMS.

Access to Package Manager working and storage areas is restricted to VA employees and authorized Contractors who must complete both the HIPAA and Information Security training using TMS. Specified access is granted based on the employee’s functional category. Role based training is required for individuals with significant information security responsibilities to include but not limited to Information Security Officer (ISO), local Chief Information Officer (CIO), System Administrators, Network Administrators, Database Managers, Users of VA Information Systems or VA Sensitive Information.

Access is requested per VA 6500 policies utilizing Electronic Permission Access System (ePAS). Users submit access requests based on need to know and job duties. Supervisor, ISO and OI&T approval must be obtained prior to access granted. These requests are submitted for VA employees, contractors and all outside agency requests and are processed through the appropriate approval processes. Once access is granted, individuals can log into the system(s) through dual authentication, i.e., a PIV card with a complex password combination (two-factor authentication is enforced). Once inside the system, individuals are authorized to access information on a need-to-know basis.

Strict physical security control measures are enforced to ensure that disclosure to these individuals is also based on this same principle. By policy, VA file areas are locked after normal duty hours and the facilities are protected from outside access by the Federal Protective Service or other security personnel.
Access to computer rooms at the AWS facility is limited by appropriate locking devices and restricted to authorized VA employees and vendor personnel. Automated Data Processing (ADP) peripheral devices are placed in secure areas (areas that are locked or have limited access) or are otherwise protected. VA furnished laptops and similar devices are protected with two-factor authentication and OS level encryption at rest.

Access to information stored on automated storage media at other VA locations is controlled by individually unique passwords/codes. Access by Office of Inspector General (OIG) staff conducting an audit, investigation, or inspection at AWS facility is supervised and rigorously controlled.

(TMS).

8.2 Will VA contractors have access to the system and the PII? If yes, what involvement will contractors have with the design and maintenance of the system? Has a contractor confidentiality agreement, Business Associate Agreement (BAA), or a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) been developed for contractors who work on the system?

If so, how frequently are contracts reviewed and by whom? Describe the necessity of the access provided to contractors to the system and whether clearance is required. If Privacy Roles and Responsibilities have been established to restrict certain users to different access levels, please describe the roles and associated access levels. Explain the need for VA contractors to have access to the PII.

This question is related to privacy control AR-3, Privacy Requirements for Contractors and Service Providers.

Yes, the VBMS program contractors who provide support to the system are required to complete a Moderate Background Investigation (MBI), complete annual VA Privacy and Information Security and Roles of Behavior training via the VA’s Talent Management System TMS. Contractors with systems administrative access are required to complete additional role-based training prior to gaining system administrator access. VA contract employee system/application access is verified through VA Contract Officers Representative (COR) before access is granted to any contractor. All contractors are required to sign an NDA in advance of gaining access to the systems.

A contractor Production Operations team will support the FTI production environment, but Safeguards are in place to prevent contractor access to FTI in accordance with IRC §6103(p)(4) restrictions. These Safeguards were certified by IRS as acceptable in memo FD698-FED-AWS GovCloud-L-031020 and will be audited by IRS during the VA’s normal triannual FTI audit. The contractors who provide support to the system are required to complete annual VA Privacy and Information Security and Rules of Behavior training via the VA’s Talent Management System.
8.3 Describe what privacy training is provided to users either generally or specifically relevant to the program or system?

VA offers privacy and security training. Each program or system may offer training specific to the program or system that touches on information handling procedures and sensitivity of information. Please describe how individuals who have access to PII are trained to handle it appropriately. This question is related to privacy control AR-5, Privacy Awareness and Training.

A contractor Production Operations team will support the BIP Package Manager production environment. The contractors who provide support to the system are required to complete annual VA Privacy and Information Security and Rules of Behavior training via the VA’s Talent Management System (TMS).

VBA end users of the system must take annual FTI awareness and protection training as outlined in IRS Publication 1075. This training must be completed via the VA’s Talent Management System 2.0 (TMS) and compliance is tracked through the TMS 2.0 system.

8.4 Has Authorization and Accreditation (A&A) been completed for the system?

If Yes, provide:

1. Security Plan Status: Approved
2. Security Plan Status Date: December 1, 2021
3. Authorization Status: Authorization to Operate (ATO)
4. Authorization Date: January 6, 2022
5. Authorization Termination Date: January 6, 2023
6. Risk Review Completion Date: September 14, 2021
7. FIPS 199 classification: High

Please note that all systems containing SPI are categorized at a minimum level of “moderate” under Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 199.

If No or In Process, provide your Initial Operating Capability (IOC) date.

Section 9 – Technology Usage

The following questions are used to identify the technologies being used by the IT system or project.

9.1 Does the system use cloud technology? If so, what cloud model is being utilized?
If so, Does the system have a FedRAMP provisional or agency authorization? If the system does use cloud technology, but does not have FedRAMP authorization, explain how the Cloud Service Provider (CSP) solution was assessed and what FedRAMP documents and processes were used for the assessment in order to comply with VA Handbook 6517. Types of cloud models include: Software as a Service (SaaS), Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS), Commercial off the Shelf (COTS).

This question is related to privacy control UL-1, Information Sharing with Third Parties.

Note: For systems utilizing the VA Enterprise Cloud (VAEC), no further responses are required after 9.1.

The VAEC provides infrastructure-as-a-service (IaaS), software-as-a-service (SaaS), and platform-as-a-service (PaaS) IT services to VA customers. BIP is hosted on virtual servers located in the VAEC AWS environment. Using VAEC AWS as the hosting platform for MBMS provides the following operational tools in a FedRAMP-approved environment:

- Self-service catalog
- Provisioning, orchestrating, and deployment
- Access and security management
- Resourcing and account management
- Backup and disaster recovery services

9.2 Does the contract with the Cloud Service Provider, Contractors and VA customers establish who has ownership rights over data including PII? (Provide contract number and supporting information about PII/PHI from the contract)

This question is related to privacy control AR-3, Privacy Requirements for Contractors and Service Providers.

VA Business Stakeholders of the BIP minor applications have ownership rights over data.

9.3 Will the CSP collect any ancillary data and if so, who has ownership over the ancillary data?

Per NIST 800-144, cloud providers hold significant details about the accounts of cloud consumers that could be compromised and used in subsequent attacks. Ancillary data also involves information the cloud provider collects or produces about customer-related activity in
the cloud. It includes data collected to meter and charge for consumption of resources, logs and audit trails, and other such metadata that is generated and accumulated within the cloud environment.

This question is related to privacy control DI-1, Data Quality.

The CSP relationship is managed via the Major Application relationship with BIP Assessing. The VAEC AWS maintains the DI-1 control within their boundary.

9.4 

NIST 800-144 states, “Organizations are ultimately accountable for the security and privacy of data held by a cloud provider on their behalf.” Is this principle described in contracts with customers? Why or why not?

What are the roles and responsibilities involved between the organization and cloud provider, particularly with respect to managing risks and ensuring organizational requirements are met?

This question is related to privacy control AR-3, Privacy Requirements for Contractors and Service Providers.

VAEC Cloud Service Provider (CSP) AWS GovCloud is FEDRAMP approved, under the BIP Assessing ATO. Per the approval of the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Enterprise Program Management Office (EPMO) [the VA Authorizing Official (AO)], VA Business Stakeholders of the BIP minor applications have ownership rights over data.

9.5 If the system is utilizing Robotics Process Automation (RPA), please describe the role of the bots.

Robotic Process Automation is the use of software scripts to perform tasks as an automated process that executes in parallel with or in place of human input. For example, will the automation move or touch PII/PHI information. RPA may also be referred to as “Bots” or Artificial Intelligence (AI).

BIP does not utilize Robotics Process Automation (RPA) in any processes.
## Section 10. References

### Summary of Privacy Controls by Family

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Signature of Responsible Officials

The individuals below attest that the information provided in this Privacy Impact Assessment is true and accurate.

JEAN-CLAUDE WICKS  
Digitally signed by JEAN-CLAUDE WICKS  
Date: 2022.06.15 07:00:44 -06'00'

Privacy Officer, Jean-Claude Wicks

JOSEPH FACCIOLLI  
Digitally signed by JOSEPH FACCIOLLI  
Date: 2022.06.16 11:55:03 -04'00'

Information Systems Security Officer, Joseph Facciolli

Tushar A. Dode 3590516  
Digitally signed by Tushar A. Dode 3590516  
Date: 2022.06.21 07:31:38 -04'00'

Information Systems Owner, Tushar Dode
APPENDIX A-6.1

Please provide a link to the notice or verbiage referred to in Section 6 (a notice may include a posted privacy policy; a Privacy Act notice on forms).

‘Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records—VA’ (58VA21/22/28).