



Date PIA submitted for review:

12/6/2023

Privacy Impact Assessment for the VA Area called<sup>1</sup>:

# AREA BRONX

# DISTRICT NORTH ATLANTIC

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<sup>1</sup> The completion of Veterans Affairs Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) is mandated for any rulemaking, program, boundary, or practice that collects or uses PII under the authority of the E-government Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. § 208(b)) and VA Directive 6508, Implementation of Privacy Threshold Analysis and Privacy Impact Assessment.

**Sites within Area:**

<i>Sites</i>	<i>Station Numbers</i>
1) James J. peters VAMC 130 West Kingsbridge Rd. Bronx, N.Y. 10468	526
2)White Plains CBOC 23 South Broadway, White Plains NY 10601	526
3) Queens CBOC 47-01 Queens Blvd. Ste. 301 Sunnyside, NY 11104	526
4) Yonkers CBOC 124 New main Street Yonkers NY 10701	526

**Area Contacts:**

**Area Key Stakeholders**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title (PO, ISSO, AM)</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>	<i>Email Address</i>	<i>Applicable Site (VBA, VHA, NCA, Program Office)</i>
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**Abstract**

*The abstract provides the simplest explanation for “what does the Area do?”.*

Area Bronx is an Information Area that consists of The James J. Peters VAMC, Queens CBOC, White Plains CBOC and Yonkers CBOC. The Area Boundary consists of components such as workstations, laptops, portable computing devices, terminals, servers, printers, and IT enabled networked medical devices that are owned, managed, and maintained by the facilities. The Area provides operational connectivity services necessary to enable users' access to information technology resources throughout the enterprise including those within the facility, between facilities, resources hosted at data centers, and connectivity to other systems. Network connectivity rules are enforced by VA approved baselines for router and switch configurations. The Area Boundary system environment also includes as applicable, subsystem storage utilities such as tape drives, optical drives, disk drives, network attached storage (NAS), storage area networks (SAN), archival appliances, special purpose systems, and tier 2 storage solutions. The Area encompasses the management, operational, and technical security controls associated with IT hardware, consisting of servers, routers, switches, hubs, gateways, peripheral devices, desktop/laptops, and OS software. The Area Boundary employs a myriad of routers and switches that connect to the VA network.

Special Purpose Systems are non-medical, non-research VA network-connected, and non-Office of Information and Technology (OIT) supported Operational Technology (OT) device/system that cannot obtain a VA approved baseline.

## 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 Area name and the name of the sites within it.*
- *The business purpose of the Area and how it relates to the program office and agency mission.*
- *Whether the Area is leveraging or accessing Enterprise repositories such as Veterans Benefits Management System, SharePoint, VistA, etc. and if so, a description of what PII/PHI from the Enterprise repositories is being used by the facilities in the Area.*
- *Documentation of any repository not maintained at the enterprise level, unlike Veterans Benefits Management System, SharePoint, VistA, etc. used by the facilities to collect, use, disseminate, maintain, or create PII/PHI.*
- *Any external information sharing conducted by the facilities within the Area.*
- *A citation of the legal authority to operate the Area.*
- *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*
- *Does the Area host or maintain cloud technology? If so, does the Area have a FedRAMP provisional or agency authorization?*

The Area Bronx itself does not collect, use, disseminate, maintain, or store PII/PHI. VHA, VBA and NCA Facilities located within the Area Bronx IT Area all access VA Enterprise IT systems respectively, hosted and maintained outside of this Area. These are VISTA, Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS), Memorial Benefits System (MEM), etc.

Special Purpose Systems consists of specialized devices, and applicable components, hosted within the facilities associated to the Area. The system environment is comprised of operational technology devices/systems that assist, support, and maintain mission capabilities and operations for building safety, healthcare services, security services and other general services functional support areas.

The system environment may include, but are not limited to; energy management systems, heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), temperature controls, building/facility access controls, building automation systems, utility control systems, distributed control systems, security cameras, emergency response vehicle dashcams, Virtual Reality (VR) headsets, promethean boards, TUG robots, Telesitter, and other business Operational Technologies. All Special Purpose Systems are identified in **Appendix C**.

Only PII/PHI collected and used by the facilities within the Area will be referenced in this document since the Area does not maintain, disseminate, or store information accessed by each facility.

The facilities within the Area collect, use, and/or disseminate PII/PHI that is maintained and stored within enterprise systems such as VistA, Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS), Burial Operations Support System (BOSS)/ Automated Monument Application System (AMASS), etc. There are [individual PIAs](#) that contain detailed information on the maintenance, dissemination and sharing practices, and storage of the PII/PHI for each Enterprise system accessed by the facilities.

The Area is using the VA Enterprise Cloud (VAEC) which is at the enterprise level and is outside of the Area. Further information can be found in the VAEC PIA.

The applicable [SORs](#) for Area Bronx include:

*Applicable SORs*

<b>Site Type: VBA/VHA/NCA or Program Office</b>	<b>Applicable System of Records (SORs)</b> <i>*Please verify that the below SORs are applicable to your Area. Please add any additional applicable SORs to the table and remove those that are not applicable.</i>
VHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-VA Fee Basis Records-VA, SOR 23VA10NB3</li> <li>• Patient Medical Records-VA, SOR 24VA10A7</li> <li>• Veteran, Patient, Employee, and Volunteer Research and Development Project Records- VA, SOR 34VA10</li> <li>• Community Placement Program-VA, SOR 65VA122</li> <li>• Health Care Provider Credentialing and Privileging Records-VA, SOR 77VA10E2E</li> <li>• Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) Records-VA, SOR 79VA10</li> <li>• Income Verification Records-VA, SOR 89VA10NB</li> <li>• Automated Safety Incident Surveillance and Tracking System-VA, SOR 99VA13</li> <li>• The Revenue Program Billings and Collection Records-VA, SOR 114VA10</li> <li>• National Patient Databases-VA, SOR 121VA10A7</li> <li>• Enrollment and Eligibility Records- VA 147VA10NF1</li> <li>• VHA Corporate Data Warehouse- VA 172VA10A7</li> <li>• Health Information Exchange - VA 168VA005</li> </ul>

<b>Site Type: VBA/VHA/NCA or Program Office</b>	<b>Applicable System of Records (SORs)</b> <i>*Please verify that the below SORs are applicable to your Area. Please add any additional applicable SORs to the table and remove those that are not applicable.</i>

## 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, Area, or technology being developed.

### 1.1 What information is collected, used, disseminated, or created, by the facilities within the Area?

Identify and list all PII/PHI that is collected and stored in the Area, including 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 Area creates information (for example, a score, analysis, or report), list the information the Area is responsible for creating.

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

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

Please check any information listed below that the facilities within the Area collects. If additional PII/PHI is collected, please list those in the text box below:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Name   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vehicle License Plate Number                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service-connected Disabilities                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Security Number   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internet Protocol (IP) Address Numbers         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employment Information                            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date of Birth  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current Medications                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Veteran Dependent Information                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mother's Maiden Name   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Previous Medical Records                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disclosure Requestor Information                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal Mailing Address   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Race/Ethnicity                                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Death Certification Information                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal Phone Number(s)   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tax Identification Number                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Criminal Background                               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal Fax Number  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical Record Number                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education Information                             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal Email Address   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Next of Kin                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency Contact Information (Name, Phone Number, etc. of a different individual) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Guardian Information                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tumor PHI Statistics                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial Account Information  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic Protected Health Information (ePHI) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Unique Identifying Information (list below) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health Insurance Beneficiary Numbers   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military History/Service Connection            |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certificate/License numbers  |  |   |

Service Information, Benefits Information, Funeral Information, Marital Status, Relationship to Veteran, Military service data, Applicant's name and address, place of birth and burial, burial service and headstone data.

### **PII Mapping of Components (Servers/Database)**

Bronx Area consists of four key components (servers/databases). Each component has been analyzed to determine if any elements of that component collect PII. The type of PII collected within Bronx Area and the reasons for the collection of the PII are in the **Mapping of Components Table in [Appendix B](#) of this PIA.**

### **1.2 What are the sources of the information for the facilities within the Area?**

The information that resides within the facilities in the Area Boundary is collected, maintained, and/or disseminated comes from a variety of sources. The largest amount of data comes directly from individuals - including veterans and their dependents, volunteers and other members of the public, clinical trainees, and VA employees and contractors. For example: items such as names, social security numbers, dates of birth are collected from the individual on healthcare enrollment forms (VA Form 10-10EZ), or other paperwork the individual prepares. An application for employment contains the same, or similar, information about employees.

Depending on the type of information, it may also come from Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), the VA Health Eligibility Center (HEC), VA Network Authorization Office (NAO) for non-VA Care payments, and non-VA medical providers, Department of Defense (DOD), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Social Security Administration (SSA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).]

Criminal background information is obtained from Electronic Questionnaires for Investigations Processing (E-QIP) and National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and used to confirm employment and/or volunteer eligibility and to assist the VA Police Service while conducting internal investigations.

Additional sources include:

- VA, Compensation, Pension, Education and Rehabilitation Records
- VA, Veterans and Beneficiaries Identification Records Location Subsystem
- VA Veterans and Armed Forces Personnel United States Government Life Insurance Records
- VA Veterans, Beneficiaries and Attorneys United States Government Insurance Award Records
- VA, Veterans and Beneficiaries Identification and Records Location (BIRLS)
- Compensation, Pension, Education and Rehabilitation (covers BDN and Corporate databases)
- Loan Guaranty Home, Condominium and Manufactured Home Loan Applicant Records
- VA Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance

- Identity and Access Management (IAM) Single Sign-On Internal (SSOi) and User Provisioning: Memorial Benefits Management System (MBMS) Salesforce and Amazon Web Services (AWS) uses two VA IAM services to validate user login information: SSOi and User Provisioning.
- Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) eFolder via iHub: Provides access to a widget allowing National Cemetery Scheduling Office (NCSO) case managers the ability to view documents in eFolder to assist in eligibility verification of Veterans and Next-of-Kin.
- The data viewed is viewed for eligibility determinations and not transmitted or stored in MBMS Salesforce or AWS.
- VA Master Persons Index Enterprise (MPIe): Provides the ability to search the authoritative data source for Veterans, MPI, to ensure that they are not creating duplicate contact records in applications built on the Salesforce platform.
- Direct conversation with individual Veterans or NOK who call the NCSO representatives

**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 Area, or created by the Area itself. Specifically, is information collected through technologies or other technology 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.*

*Means of Collection Table*

<b>Site Type: VBA/VHA/NCA or Program Office</b>	<b>Means of Collection</b>
*VHA	Information collected directly from patients, employees and/or other members of the public is collected using paper forms (such as the VA Form 10-10EZ enrollment form for VA health care), or interviews and assessments with the individual. Much of the information provided by veterans or other members of the public, such as address and phone number, next of kin and emergency contact information, and similar information are assumed to be accurate because it is provided directly by the individual. Additionally, information entered into an individual’s medical



<i>Site Type: VBA/VHA/NCA or Program Office</i>	<i>Means of Collection</i>
	record by a doctor or other medical staff is also assumed to be accurate.

Information related to an employee’s employment application may be gathered from the applicant for employment, which is provided to an application processing website, [USA Jobs](#).

Information from outside resources comes to the Bronx Area using several methods. Data is transferred through VPN connections, emails, and facsimile. Chief among these sources, are the DoD, SSA, and IRS. The DoD provides military records, including medical records compiled when the patient was a member of the US Military. Income information is verified using information from the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

These data collections may be done using secure web portals, VPN connection, e-mail, and facsimile

The Memorial Benefits Management System (MBMS) is under development to replace the BOSS-E and AMAS system suite. MBMS has replaced BOSS-E as the primary scheduling tool at the NCSO and will replace all NCA systems to include BOSS, AMAS, EOAS, Web-Presidential Memorial Certificates (Web-PMC), and Memorial Enterprise Letters (MEL) by 2025.

#### **1.4 What is the purpose of the information being collected, used, disseminated, created, or maintained?**

The purposes of the information from Veterans and other members of the public collected, maintained, and processed by Area Bronx are as varied as the types of information collected.

Much of the information collected is maintained, used, and disseminated to ensure that Veterans and other eligible individuals obtain the medical and mental health treatment they require. Additional information, such as bank account information and insurance information are used to process claims and requests for benefits. Other purposes include determination of legal authority for providers and other clinical staff to practice medicine and/or subject matter expertise, release of information request responses, and research/analysis of data.

*Purpose of Information Collection Table*

<i>Site Type: VBA/VHA/NCA or Program Office</i>	<i>Purpose of Information Collection</i>
*VHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To determine eligibility for health care and continuity of care</li> <li>• Emergency contact information in cases of emergency situations such as medical emergencies</li> <li>• Provide medical care</li> <li>• Communication with Veterans/patients and their families/emergency contacts</li> <li>• Determine legal authority for providers and health care workers to practice medicine and/or subject matter expertise</li> </ul>



<b>Site Type: VBA/VHA/NCA or Program Office</b>	<b>Purpose of Information Collection</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responding to release of information request</li> <li>• Third party health care plan billing, e.g. private insurance</li> <li>• Statistical analysis of patient treatment</li> <li>• Contact for employment eligibility/verification</li> </ul>

**1.5 How will the information collected and used by the facilities be checked for accuracy? How often will it be checked?**

*Discuss whether and how often information stored in a facility within the Area is checked for accuracy. Is information within the facility 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 a facility within the Area that receives data from internal data sources or VA IT systems, describe the checks to ensure that data corruption has not occurred during transmission.*

*If the Area 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.*

Information that is collected and used directly from enterprise systems have additional details regarding checks for accuracy in their own enterprise level PIAs.

Much of the information provided by veterans or other members of the public, such as address and phone number, next of kin and emergency contact information, and similar information are assumed to be accurate because it is provided directly by the individual. Additionally, information entered an individual's medical record by a doctor or other medical staff is also assumed to be accurate and is not verified.

Information is checked through the VBA to verify eligibility for VA benefits. Information about military service history is verified against official DoD military records and income information is verified using information from the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Employee, contractor, student, and volunteer information is obtained by automated tools as well as obtained directly by the individuals. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and Office of Personnel Management are contacted to obtain background reviews. Provider credentialing information is obtained from a variety of education resources.

Standard operating procedures (SOPs) are in place at NCA offices and cemeteries to perform quality control on data related to each case. As cases progress through the queues from NCSO case managers

to the cemetery office staff, additional data integrity checks are conducted. Final data integrity checks are performed by cemetery operations staff who perform the interment after services.

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

*List the full legal authority for operating the Area, 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*

*Legal Authority Table*

<b>Site Type: VBA/VHA/NCA or Program Office</b>	<b>Legal Authority</b>
VHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Veterans Health Administration – Organization and Functions, Title 38, U.S.C., Chapter 73, § 7301(a)</li> <li>• Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)</li> <li>• Privacy Act of 1974</li> <li>• Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 5 USC 552</li> <li>• VHA Directive 1605.01 Privacy &amp; Release of Information</li> <li>• VA Directive 6500 Managing Information Security Risk: VA Information Security Program.</li> </ul>

**1.7 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Characterization of the information**

**Privacy Risk:**

VA Area Bronx collects Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and a variety of other Sensitive Personal Information (SPI), such as Protected Health Information (PHI). Due to the highly sensitive

nature of this data, there is a risk that, if the data were accessed by an unauthorized individual or otherwise breached, serious personal, professional, or financial harm may result for the individuals affected.

### **Mitigation:**

VA Area Bronx employs a variety of security measures designed to ensure that the information is not inappropriately disclosed or released. These measures include access control, awareness and training, audit and accountability, certification, accreditation, and security assessments, configuration management, contingency planning, identification and authentication, incident response, maintenance, media protection, physical and environmental protection, planning, personnel security, risk assessment, systems and services acquisition, system and communications protection, and system and information integrity. The Area employs all security controls in the respective high impact security control baseline unless specific exceptions have been allowed based on the tailoring guidance provided in the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication 800-37 and specific VA directives.

All employees with access to Veteran's health information are required to complete the Privacy and HIPAA Focused training as well as the VA Privacy and Information Security Awareness & Rules of Behavior training annually. The VA enforces two-factor authentication by enforcing smartcard logon requirements. PIV cards are issued to employees, contractors, and partners in accordance with HSPD-12. The Personal Identity Verification (PIV) Program is an effort directed and managed by the Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12) Program Management Office (PMO). IT Operations and Services (ITOPS) Solution Delivery (SD) is responsible for the technical operations support of the PIV Card Management System. Information is not shared with other agencies without a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or other legal authority.

## **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 within the Area will be used in support of the program's business purpose.**

- **Name:** Used to identify the patient during appointments and in other forms of communication
- **Social Security Number:** Used as a patient identifier and as a resource for verifying income Information with the Social Security Administration
- **Date of Birth:** Used to identify age and confirm patient identity
- **Mother's Maiden Name:** Used to confirm patient identity
- **Mailing Address:** Used for communication, billing purposes and calculate travel pay
- **Zip Code:** Used for communication, billing purposes, and to calculate travel pay
- **Phone Number(s):** Used for communication, confirmation of appointments and conduct Telehealth appointments

- **Fax Number:** used to send forms of communication and records to business contacts, Insurance companies and health care providers
- **Email Address:** used for communication and MyHealthVet secure communications
- **Emergency Contact Information (Name, Phone Number, etc. of a different individual):** Used in cases of emergent situations such as medical emergencies.
- **Financial Account Information:** Used to calculate co-payments and VA health care benefit eligibility
- **Health Insurance Beneficiary Account Numbers:** Used to communicate and bill third part Health care plans
- **Certificate/License numbers:** Used to track and verify legal authority to practice medicine and Licensure for health care workers in an area of expertise.
- **Vehicle License Plate Number:** Used for assignment of employee parking and assignment of parking during events
- **Internet Protocol (IP) Address Numbers:** Used for configuration and network connections. Network Communication allows information to be transferred from one Information Technology System to another.
- **Current Medications:** Used within the medical records for health care purposes/treatment, prescribing medications and allergy interactions.
- **Previous Medical Records:** Used for continuity of health care
- **Race/Ethnicity:** Used for patient demographic information and for indicators of ethnicity-related diseases.
- **Tax Identification Number:** Used for employment, eligibility verification
- **Medical Record Number:** Used to identify a patient within the medical record system without using their social security number as their identifier.
- **Next of Kin:** Used in cases of emergent situations such as medical emergencies. Used when patient expires and in cases of patient incapacity.
- **Guardian Information:** Used when patient is unable to make decisions for themselves.
- **Electronic Protected Health Information (ePHI):** Used for history of health care treatment, during treatment and plan of treatment when necessary.
- **Military history/service connection:** Used to evaluate medical conditions that could be related to location of military time served. It is also used to determine VA benefit and health care eligibility.
- **Service-connected disabilities:** Used to determine VA health care eligibility and treatment plans/programs
- **Employment information:** Used to determine VA employment eligibility and for veteran contact, financial verification.
- **Veteran dependent information:** Used to determine benefit support and as an emergency contact person.
- **Disclosure requestor information:** Used to track and account for patient medical records released to requestors.
- **Death certificate information:** Used to determine date, location and cause of death.

- **Criminal background information:** Used to determine employment eligibility and during VA Police investigations.
- **Education Information:** Used for demographic background information for patients and as a determining factor for VA employment in areas of expertise. Basic educational background, e.g. High School Diploma, college degree credentials
- **Gender:** Used as patient demographic, identity and indicator for type of medical care/provider and medical tests required for individual.
- **Tumor PII/PHI Statistics:** Used to evaluate medical conditions and determine treatment plan
- **Date of Death:** Used to verify spousal and beneficiary relationship to Veteran, at time of death
- **Marital Status:** Used to verify spousal and beneficiary eligibility
- **Service Information:** Used to verify eligibility
- **Benefit Information:** Used to verify burial benefits
- **Relationship to Veteran:** Used to determine relationship to Veteran
- **Funeral Home Information:** Used to contact funeral home or other service coordinator information

The data may be used for approved research purposes. The data may be used also for such purposes as assisting in the scheduling of tours of duties and job assignments of employees; the scheduling of patient treatment services, including nursing care, clinic appointments, surgery, diagnostic and therapeutic procedures; the repair and maintenance of equipment and for follow-up activities to determine that the actions were accomplished and to evaluate the results; the registration of vehicles and the assignment and utilization of parking spaces; to plan, schedule, and maintain rosters of patients, employees and others attending or participating in sports, recreational or other events (e.g., National Wheelchair Games, concerts, picnics); for audits, reviews and investigations conducted by staff of the health care facility, the Network Directors Office, VA Central Office, and the VA Office of Inspector General (OIG); for quality assurance audits, reviews, investigations and inspections; for law enforcement investigations; and for personnel management, evaluation and employee ratings, and performance evaluations.

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

The VA Area Bronx uses statistics and analysis to create general reports that provide the VA a better understanding of patient care, benefits, and needs etc., These reports are:

1. Reports created to analyze statistical analysis on case mixes.
2. Analyze the number of places and geographical locations where patients are seen to assess the volume of clinical need.
3. Analyze appointment time-frame data to track and trend averages of time.

These reports may track:

- The number of patients enrolled, provider capacity, staffing ratio, new primary care patient wait time, etc. for Veterans established with a Patient Care Aligned Team (PACT)
- Beneficiary travel summary/benefits
- Workload and cost resources for various services, i.e., mental health, primary care, home dialysis, fee services, etc.
- Daily bed management activity
- Coding averages for outpatient/inpatient encounters
- Satisfaction of Healthcare Experience of Patients (SHEP) data as it pertains to customer satisfaction regarding outpatient/inpatient services
- Unique patient trends
- Clinic wait times

Letters to veterans concerning the progress of their claim are generated periodically, as well as rating decisions and requests for additional information to substantiate the claim. These letters are generated electronically and printed on paper and mailed to the veteran.

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

The controls in place to assure that the information is handled in accordance with the uses described above include mandatory online information security and Privacy and HIPAA training; face-to-face training for all incoming new employees conducted by the Information System Security Officer and Privacy Officer; regular audits of individuals accessing sensitive information; and formal administrative rounds during which personal examine all areas within the facility to ensure information is being appropriately used and controlled.

## **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 by the facilities within the Area Boundary?**

The Area Bronx itself, does not retain information.

- Name
- Previous medical records
- Social Security Number (SSN)
- Race/ethnicity
- Date of Birth
- Next of Kin
- Mother's Maiden Name
- Guardian Information
- Mailing Address
- ePHI
- Zip Code
- Military history/service connection
- Phone Numbers
- Service connection disabilities
- Fax Numbers
- Employment information
- Email address
- Veteran dependent information
- Emergency contact info
- Disclosure requestor information
- Financial account information
- Death certification information
- Health insurance beneficiary account numbers
- Tumor PII/PHI statistics
- Certificate/license numbers
- Criminal background investigation
- Internet Protocol address numbers
- Education Information
- Current medications
- Gender
- Tax Identification Number
- Medical Record Number
- Vehicle License Plate Numbers
- Service Information
- Benefit Information
- Relationship to Veteran
- Funeral Home Information
- Name and address of Next of Kin
- Military service data, applicant's name and address, place of burial, burial service, and headstone data.
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### 3.2 How long is information retained by the facilities?

*Length of Retention Table*

<b>Site Type: VBA/VHA/NCA or Program Office</b>	<b>Length of Retention</b>
VHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Records: Different forms of financial records are retained 1-7 years based on specific retention schedules. Please refer to VA Record Control Schedule (RCS)10-1, Part Two, Chapter Four- Finance Management</li> <li>• Patient medical records are retained for a total of 75 years after the last episode of care. (Department of Veterans Affairs Record Control Schedule (RCS)10-1, Part Three, Chapter Six- Healthcare Records, Item 6000.1a. and 6000.1d.</li> <li>• Official Human Resources Personnel File: Folder will be transferred to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) within 30 days from the date an employee leaves the VA. NPRC will destroy 65 years after separation from Federal service. (Department of Veterans Affairs Record Control Schedule (RCS)10-1, Part Two, Chapter Three- Civilian Personnel, Item No. 3000.1</li> <li>• Office of Information &amp; Technology (OI&amp;T) Records: These records are created, maintained and disposed of in accordance with Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Information &amp; Technology RCS 005-1.</li> </ul>
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### 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 Area owner. This question is related to privacy control DM-2, Data Retention and Disposal.*

Retention Schedule Table

<i>Site Type: VBA/VHA/NCA or Program Office</i>	<i>Retention Schedule</i>
*VHA	<a href="#">Records Control Schedule 10-1</a> <a href="#">Records Control Schedule 005-1</a>

**3.4 What are the procedures for the elimination of PII/PHI?**

Information within the Area Bronx is destroyed by the disposition guidance of [RCS 10-1, VB-1, etc.]. Paper documents are destroyed to an unreadable state in accordance with the Department of Veterans’ Affairs VA Directive 6371, (April 8, 2014)

Electronic data and files of any type, including Protected Health Information (PHI), Sensitive Personal Information (SPI), Human Resources records, and more are destroyed in accordance with the Department of Veterans’ Affairs Directive 6500 VA Cybersecurity Program (January 23, 2019). When required, this data is deleted from their file location and then permanently deleted from the deleted items or Recycle bin. Magnetic media is wiped and sent out for destruction per VA Directive 6500. Digital media is shredded or sent out for destruction per VA Directive 6500.

^ Paper records are shredded on-site by a shredding company, witnessed by the Records Management Officer, and are accompanied by a certificate of destruction. Non-paper records maintained on magnetic media are destroyed by erasing the magnetic media using an approved software to digitally overwrite the media. The media is then shredded on-site by the contracted shredding company, witnessed by the Records Management Officer per VBA Directive 6300.

/Paper records are shredded on site to a degree that definitively ensures that they are not readable or reconstructed to any degree per VA Directive 6371 or by a contracted shredding company, tracked with VA Form 7468, destruction log or certificate of destruction.

**3.5 Does the Area include any facility or program that, where feasible, uses techniques to minimize the risk to privacy by using PII for research, testing, or training?**

Area Bronx collects PII directly from the individual wherever possible, which allows for better confirmation of the accuracy, relevant, timelines, and completeness of the information, if information is collected in person, verbally, or on a VA form, this confirmation happens as part of the process. When information is collected online, or by email, confirmation of PIT is handled through other electronic processes, such as computer matches.

There are processes in place and a hierarchy for collecting information from others when an individual, such as a patient, is unable to provide the needed PH. Any P11 part of a Privacy Act System of Records that is determined to be inaccurate or outdated, or erroneously placed in the wrong record by VHA staff is updated administratively as appropriate. VHA will also update any P11 in a Privacy Act System of Records pursuant to a granted amendment request from the individual. VHA Handbook 1605.1 outlines policy for processing amendment requests. Other policies, such as VFIA Handbook 1907.01 outlines how health records are updated including administratively due to errors. PH that is not part of a Privacy Act System of Records is corrected whenever errors are found.

VHA has issued various policies around data quality and integrity of P11 maintained by VITA, including VHA Directive 1906, Data Quality Requirements for Healthcare Identity Management and Master Veteran Index Functions; VHA Directive 1604, Data Entry Requirements for Administrative Data; and VHA Directive 1126, Patient Registration Consistency checks. The risk to maintaining data within the Area Bronx system is described as: The longer time frame information is kept, the greater the risk that information possibly will be compromised or breached.

Mitigation: Area Bronx ensures that risk posed by information retention follows the VA RCSIO-1 for each category of or data it maintains.

### **3.6 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Retention of information**

**Privacy Risk:** There is a risk that the information maintained by Area Bronx could be retained for longer than is necessary to fulfill the VA mission. Records held longer than required are at greater risk of being unintentionally released, breached, or exploited for reasons other than what is described in the privacy documentation associated with the information.

**Mitigation:** To mitigate the risk posed by information retention, Area Bronx adheres to the VA RCS schedules for each category or data it maintains. When the retention data is reached for a record, the medical center will carefully dispose of the data by the determined method as described in question 3.4. The Area Bronx ensures that all personnel involved with the collection, use and retention of data are trained in the correct process for collecting, using and retaining this data. A Records Management Officer (RMO), Privacy Officer (PO) and an Information System Security Officer (ISSO) are assigned to the Area to ensure their respective programs are understood and followed by all to protect sensitive information from the time it is captured by the VA until it is finally disposed of. Each of these in-depth programs have controls that overlap and are assessed annually to ensure requirements are being met and assist staff with questions concerning the proper handling of information.

## **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 are facilities within the Area sharing/receiving/transmitting information with? What information is shared/received/transmitted, and for what purpose? How is the information transmitted?**

**Note: Question #3.5 (second table) in the Area 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 Area 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 each facility, 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 internally by facilities within the Area including VA Enterprise Systems Organizations*

<b><i>List the Program Office or IT System information is shared/received with</i></b>	<b><i>List the purpose of the information being shared /received with the specified program office or IT System</i></b>	<b><i>List the specific data element types such as PII/PHI that are shared/received with the Program Office or IT System</i></b>	<b><i>Describe the method of transmittal</i></b>	<b><i>Applicable Sites within Area (VBA, VHA, NCA, Program Office)</i></b>
Veterans Benefits Administration (VBMS)	Filing benefit claims	Social Security Number, Benefits Information, Claims Decision, DD-214	Compensation and Pension Record Interchange (CAPRI) electronic software package	JJP VAMC
Veterans Health Administration (VistA)	Electronic Health Record	Area Log files, sample clinical data that may contain Protected Health Information (PHI)	Electronically pulled from VistA thru Computerized Patient Record Area (CPRS)	JJP VAMC

<i>List the Program Office or IT System information is shared/received with</i>	<i>List the purpose of the information being shared /received with the specified program office or IT System</i>	<i>List the specific data element types such as PII/PHI that are shared/received with the Program Office or IT System</i>	<i>Describe the method of transmittal</i>	<i>Applicable Sites within Area (VBA, VHA, NCA, Program Office)</i>
Consolidate Patient Account Center (CPAC)	Medical care Cost Recovery	Diagnosis, Service Connection, dates of service, health insurance information, demographics	Electronically pulled from VistA thru Computerized Patient Record Area Boundary CPRS	JJP VAMC
VA Tumor Registry	Tracking and trending different types of cancer	Diagnosis & procedures, type of tumor, treatment, radiation, chemotherapy	Electronic tumors register package	JJP VAMC
VA Health Eligibility Center (HEC)	Verification of Eligibility for Healthcare	Dates of service, Financia information	Enrollment systems, uploaded to HEC via Vista	JJP VAMC
VA HIV Register	Tracking and trending of disease progress	Diagnosis & procedures, HIV/AIDS status, treatment outcomes, survivor tracking, type of treatment	Electronic catalogue HIV package	JJP VAMC
MyHealtheVet	Patients can view their health records at home on their own systems	Diagnosis & procedures, clinics, health insurance, financial information, demographics	Electronically pulled from VistA and CPRS	JJP VAMC

**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 internal sharing of data is necessary individuals to receive benefits at the Area Bronx. However, there is a risk that the data could be shared with an inappropriate VA organization or institution which could result in a breach of privacy and disclosure of PII/PHI to unintended parties or recipients.

**Mitigation:** Safeguards implemented to ensure data is not sent to the wrong VA organization are employee security and privacy training and awareness 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 within the facilities. Access to sensitive information and the systems where the information is stored is controlled by the VA using a “least privilege/need to know” policy. Access must be requested and only the access required by VA persons or processes acting on behalf of VA persons is to be requested or granted.

## **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 facility is allowed to share the information in identifiable form or personally identifiable information outside of VA.**

**Note: Question #3.6 in the Area 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 Area 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

<i>List External Program Office or IT System information is shared/received with</i>	<i>List the purpose of information being shared / received / transmitted with the specified program office or IT System</i>	<i>List the specific data element types such as PII/PHI that are shared/received with the Program or IT System</i>	<i>List the legal authority, binding agreement, SORN routine use, etc. that permit external sharing (can be more than one)</i>	<i>List the method of transmission and the measures in place to secure data</i>	<i>Applicable Sites within Area (VBA, VHA, NCA, Program Office)</i>
Social Security Administration	Eligibility for Federal benefits	SSN, Name, Address, Protected health Information	National ISA/ MOU	Site to Site (S2S), IPSEC Tunnel, Secure FTP	JJP VAMC
Internal Revenue Services	Income verification	Name, Financial Information	ISA/ MOU, Computer Matching Agreement	Secure Web-Portal, Secure	JJP VAMC



<i>List External Program Office or IT System information is shared/received with</i>	<i>List the purpose of information being shared / received / transmitted with the specified program office or IT System</i>	<i>List the specific data element types such as PII/PHI that are shared/received with the Program or IT System</i>	<i>List the legal authority, binding agreement, SORN routine use, etc. that permit external sharing (can be more than one)</i>	<i>List the method of transmission and the measures in place to secure data</i>	<i>Applicable Sites within Area (VBA, VHA, NCA, Program Office)</i>
				Socket Layer	
OMP fingerprinting	Determine Eligibility	SSN, Name and Address	Inter-agency agreement	Site to Site (S2S) VPN	VA NY Harbor VBA New York Regional Office
Department of Defense	Determine military service dates, eligibility	Name, Service Information, SSN	MOU	Bi-directional Health Information Exchange	JJP VAMC
LiveOnNY-Organ Doner Network	Facilitating Organ Doner Activities	Patient names, addresses, DOB death details, progress notes, and social security numbers	SORN 02VA135, MOU	Phone calls or fax requests	JJP VAMC
NY Department of Health (NYCDOH)	Tracking of infectious diseases	Health information regarding infectious disease, names, lab results, and contact information	NYC health code section 11.03 and Article 13, SORN, 02VA135, NYHHS, Standing letters	Via secure fax and phone calls to NYCDOH	JJP VAMC
New York State Office of Children & family Services	Reporting of suspected child abuse	Names, addresses, minor child's name, age, address/name of legal guardian	New York State Law Section 413,414,415,422 and 424, SORN,02VA135,Standing request letter	Via phone call to call center number established by the Dept. of	JJP VAMC

<i>List External Program Office or IT System information is shared/received with</i>	<i>List the purpose of information being shared / received / transmitted with the specified program office or IT System</i>	<i>List the specific data element types such as PII/PHI that are shared/received with the Program or IT System</i>	<i>List the legal authority, binding agreement, SORN routine use, etc. that permit external sharing (can be more than one)</i>	<i>List the method of transmission and the measures in place to secure data</i>	<i>Applicable Sites within Area (VBA, VHA, NCA, Program Office)</i>
				Children's services	

The information with each application is categorized in accordance with FIPS 199 and NIST SP 800-60. As part of the categorization any PII is identified.

The VA has policies which direct and guide the activities and processes performed by the VA. The policies are periodically reviewed to ensure completeness and applicability.

The NIST SP 800-53 controls are selected based on the categorization. The controls provide protection for Veteran PII while developed or stored by an application or IT system, physically transported, between facilities, least privilege, stored offsite, or transmitted between IT centers.

Internal protection is managed by access controls such as user authentication (user IDs, passwords and Personal Identification Verification (PIV)), awareness and training, auditing, and internal network controls. Remote protection is provided by remote access control, authenticator management, audit, and encrypted transmission.

**5.2 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: External sharing and disclosure**

**Privacy Risk:** The sharing of data is necessary for individuals to receive benefits at the Area Bronx. However, there is a risk that the data could be shared with an inappropriate and/or unauthorized external organization or institution.

**Mitigation:** Safeguards implemented to ensure data is not shared inappropriately with organizations are employee security and privacy training and awareness and required reporting of suspicious activity. Use of secure passwords, access for need-to-know purposes, Personal Identification Verification (PIV) Cards, Personal Identification Numbers (PIN), encryption and access authorization are all measures that are utilized within the administrations. Standing letters for information exchange, business associate agreements and memorandums of understanding between agencies and VA are monitored closely by the Privacy Officer (PO), ISSO to ensure protection of information.

All personnel accessing Veteran’s information must first have a successfully adjudicated background screening or Special Agreement Check (SAC). This background check is conducted by the Office of Personnel Management A background investigation is required commensurate with the individual’s duties.

## 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 in [Appendix A](#). (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?**

The Area Bronx provides notice of information collection in several additional ways. The initial method of notification is in person during individual interviews or in writing via the Privacy Act statement on forms and applications completed by the individual. Additionally, the Department of Veterans Affairs also provides notice by publishing the following [VA System of Record Notices](#) (VA SORN) in the Federal Register and online.

### Applicable SORs

<b>Site Type: VBA/VHA/NCA or Program Office</b>	<b>Applicable SORs</b>
*VHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-VA Fee Basis Records-VA, SOR 23VA10NB3</li> <li>• Patient Medical Records-VA, SOR 24VA10A7</li> <li>• Veteran, Patient, Employee, and Volunteer Research and Development Project Records- VA, SOR 34VA10</li> <li>• Community Placement Program-VA, SOR 65VA122</li> <li>• Health Care Provider Credentialing and Privileging Records-VA,SOR 77VA10E2E</li> <li>• Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) Records-VA, SOR 79VA10</li> <li>• Income Verification Records-VA, SOR 89VA10NB</li> <li>• Automated Safety Incident Surveillance and Tracking System-VA, SOR 99VA131</li> <li>• The Revenue Program Billings and Collection Records-VA, SOR 114VA10</li> <li>• National Patient Databases-VA, SOR 121VA10A7</li> <li>• Enrollment and Eligibility Records- VA 147-VA10NF1VHA Corporate Data Warehouse- VA 172VA10A&amp;</li> <li>• Health Information Exchange - VA 168VA005</li> </ul>

<i>Site Type: VBA/VHA/NCA or Program Office</i>	<i>Applicable SORs</i>
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This Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) also serves as notice of the Area Bronx. As required by the eGovernment Act of 2002, Pub.L. 107–347 §208(b)(1)(B)(iii), the Department of Veterans Affairs “after completion of the [PIA] under clause (ii), make the privacy impact assessment publicly available through the website of the agency, publication in the Federal Register, or other means.”

The VHA Notice of Privacy Practice (NOPP) is a document which explains the collection and use of protected health information to individuals interacting with VA. The NOPP is mailed every three years or when there is a major change to all enrolled Veterans.

Employees and contractors are required to review, sign, and abide by the National Rules of Behavior on an annual basis.

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

The Area Bronx only requests information necessary to administer benefits to veterans and other potential beneficiaries. While an individual may choose not to provide information, this may prevent them from obtaining the benefits necessary to them.

Employees and VA contractors are also required to provide the requested information to maintain employment or their contract with Area Bronx.

**6.3 Do individuals have the right to consent to uses of the information? If so, how does the individual exercise the right?**

*Information Consent Rights Table*

<i>Site Type: VBA VHA, NCA or Program Office</i>	<i>Information Consent Rights</i>
VHA	Yes. Individuals must submit in writing to their facility PO. The request must state what information and/or to whom the information is restricted and must include their signature and date of the request. The request is then forwarded to facility Privacy Officer for review and processing. Individuals may also request to Opt-Out of the facility directory during an inpatient admission. If the individual chooses to opt-out, no information

<b>Site Type: VBA VHA, NCA or Program Office</b>	<b>Information Consent Rights</b>
	<p>on the individual is given out.</p> <p>Individuals can request further limitations on other disclosures. A veteran, legal guardian or court appointed Power of Attorney can submit a request to the facility Privacy Officer to obtain information.</p>

#### **6.4 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Notice**

**Privacy Risk:** There is a risk that veterans and other members of the public will not know that the Area Bronx exists or that it collects, maintains, and/or disseminates PII, PHI or PII/PHI about them.

**Mitigation:** This risk is mitigated by the common practice of providing the Notice of Privacy Practice (NOPP) when Veterans are enrolled for health care. s. Employees and contractors are required to review, sign and abide by the National Rules of Behavior on a yearly basis as required by VA Handbook 6500 as well as complete annual mandatory Information Security and Privacy Awareness training. Additional mitigation is provided by making the System of Record Notices (SOR) and Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) available for review online, as discussed in question 6.1 and the Overview section of this PIA.

## **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?**

An individual wanting notification or access, including contesting the record, should mail or deliver a request to the office identified in the SOR. If an individual does not know the “office concerned,” the request may be addressed to the PO of any VA field station VHA facility where the person is receiving care or the Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. The receiving office must promptly forward the mail request received to the office of jurisdiction clearly identifying it as “Privacy Act Request” and notify the requester of the referral.

When requesting access to one's own records, patients are asked to complete [VA Form 10-5345a: Individuals' Request for a Copy of their Own Health Information](#), which can be obtained from the medical center or online at <https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-10-5345a/>.

Additionally, veterans and their dependents can gain access to their Electronic Health Record (EHR) by enrolling in the my [HealthVet program](#), VA's online personal health record. More information about my HealthVet is available at <https://www.myhealth.va.gov/index.html>.

^ As directed in VA SOR Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records-VA, SOR 58VA21/22/28(July 19, 2012), individuals seeking information regarding access to and contesting of VA records may write, call, or visit the nearest VA regional office. A list of regional VA offices may be found on the [VBA Website](#).

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

Individuals are required to provide a written request to amend or correct their records to the appropriate Privacy Officer or System Manager as outlined in the Privacy Act SOR. Every Privacy Act SOR contains information on Contesting Record Procedure which informs the individual who to contact for redress. Further information regarding access and correction procedures can be found in the notices listed in [Appendix A](#).

The VHA Notice of Privacy Practices also informs individuals how to file an amendment request with VHA.

## **7.3 How are individuals notified of the procedures for correcting their information?**

Veterans are informed of the amendment process by many resources to include the VHA Notice of Privacy Practice (NOPP) which states:

### **Right to Request Amendment of Health Information.**

You have the right to request an amendment (correction) to your health information in our records if you believe it is incomplete, inaccurate, untimely, or unrelated to your care. You must submit your request in writing, specify the information that you want corrected, and provide a reason to support your request for amendment. All amendment requests should be submitted to the facility Privacy Officer at the VHA health care facility that maintains your information.

If your request for amendment is denied, you will be notified of this decision in writing and provided appeal rights. In response, you may do any of the following:

- File an appeal
- File a "Statement of Disagreement"
- Ask that your initial request for amendment accompany all future disclosures of the disputed health information

Individuals seeking information regarding access to and contesting of VA benefits records may write, call or visit the nearest VA regional office.

Additional notice is provided through the SORS listed in 6.1 of this PIA and through the Release of Information Office where care is received.

#### **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*

Formal redress via the amendment process is available to all individuals, as stated in questions 7.1-7.3

In addition to the formal procedures discussed in question 7.2 to request changes to one's health record, a veteran or other VAMC patient who is enrolled in myHealthvet can use the system to make direct edits to their health records.

#### **7.5 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Access, redress, and correction**

Follow the format below:

**Privacy Risk:** There is a risk that members of the public will not know the relevant procedures for gaining access to, correcting, or contesting their information.

**Mitigation:** Area Bronx mitigates the risk of incorrect information in an individual's records by authenticating information when possible, using the resources discussed in question 1.5. Additionally, staff verifies information in medical records and corrects information identified as incorrect during each patient's medical appointments.

As discussed in question 7.3, the NOPP, which every enrolled Veteran receives every three years or when there is a major change. The NOPP discusses the process for requesting an amendment to one's records.

The Area Bronx Release of Information (ROI) office is available to assist Veterans with obtaining access to their health records and other records containing personal information. The Veterans' Health Administration (VHA) established MyHealthVet program to provide Veterans remote access to their medical records. The Veteran must enroll and have access to the premium account to obtain access to all the available features. In addition, VHA Directive 1605.01 Privacy and Release of Information establishes procedures for Veterans to have their records amended where appropriate.

## **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 Area, and are they documented?**



Individuals receive access to the Area Bronx by gainful employment in the VA or upon being awarded a contract that requires access to the Area systems. Upon employment, the Office of Information & Technology (OI&T) creates computer and network access accounts as determined by employment positions assigned. Users are not assigned to software packages or network connections that are not part of their assigned duties or within their assigned work area. VA Area Bronx requires access to the GSS be requested using the local access request system. VA staff must request access for anyone requiring new or modified access to the GSS. Staff are not allowed to request additional or new access for themselves.

Access is requested utilizing Electronic Permission Access Area (ePAS). Users submit access requests based on need to know and job duties. Supervisor, ISSO 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. 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. Generally, 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 VA Area Bronx is generally limited by appropriate locking devices and restricted to authorized VA IT employees. 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 the health care area, or an OIG office location remote from the health care area, is controlled in the same manner.

Access to the Area Bronx working and storage areas is restricted to VA employees who must complete both the HIPAA and Information Security training. 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 System Security Officer (ISSO), local Area Manager, System Administrators, Network Administrators, Database Managers, Users of VA Information Systems or VA Sensitive Information.

Human Resources notify Divisions, IT and ISSO of new hires and their start date(s), through [*method of notice (email, fax etc.)*]. The Division that the person is going into fills out the local access form, Automated Systems Access Request form, with name, SSN and/or claim number, job title, division and telephone number, along with marking the boxes on the form for application access the user will need on the computer system. This form starts at the Division level, is signed by the Division Chief, then goes to the ISSO and Director, for signatures and then to IT for implementation. Documentation is filed in an employee folder and maintained in the ISSO's office.

- Individuals are subject to a background investigation before given access to Veteran's information.
- All personnel with access to Veteran's information are required to complete the VA Privacy and Information Security Awareness training and Rules of Behavior annually AND Privacy and HIPAA Focused Training.

^ Full time VARO employees, as their job requires it, have access to change Veteran Service Representative (VSR) and (RVSR) Rating Veteran Service Representatives have access to amend/change the information in the system, under the guidelines of least privilege, that is, users are granted the minimum accesses necessary to perform their duties. Work Study's are limited to Inquiry only commands. Veteran Service Organizations (Co-located VSOs) and County or Out based VSOs (CVSOs) also have access to VA systems. These accesses are predefined and limited for these users. Individuals are subject to a background investigation before given access to Veteran's information. Private Attorneys, Claim Agents and Veteran Service Organizations Representatives must be accredited through the Office of General Counsel.

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

Contractors will have access to the Area after completing the VA Privacy and Information Security Awareness training and Rules of Behavior annually, and after the initiation of a background investigation. Contractors are only allowed access for the duration of the contract this is reviewed by the privacy officer and the designated Contracting Officer Representative (COR). Per the National Contractor Access Program (NCAP) guidelines, contractors can have access to the Area only after completing mandatory information security and privacy training, Privacy and HIPAA Focused Training as well as having completed a Special Agency Check, finger printing and having the appropriate background investigation scheduled with Office of Personnel Management. Certification that this training has been completed by all contractors must be provided to the employee who is responsible for the contract in question. In addition, all contracts by which contractors might access sensitive patient information must include a Business Associate Agreement which clarifies the mandatory nature of the training and the potential penalties for violating patient privacy. Contractors with VA Area Bronx access must have an approved computer access request on file. The area manager, or designee, in conjunction with the ISSO and the applicable COR reviews accounts for compliance with account management requirements. User accounts are reviewed periodically in accordance with National schedules.

**8.3 Describe what privacy training is provided to users either generally or specifically relevant to the program or Area?**

All Area Bronx personnel, volunteers, and contractors are required to complete initial and annual Privacy and Security Awareness and Rule Behavior (RoB) training, during New Employee Orientation (NEO) or via TMS. In addition, all employees who interact with patient sensitive medical information must complete the Privacy and HIPAA focused mandated privacy training. Finally, all new employees receive face-to-face training by the Area Privacy Officer and Information Security Officer during new employee orientation. The Privacy and Information Security Officers also perform subject specific trainings on an as needed basis.

Each site identifies personnel with significant information system security roles and responsibilities. (i.e., management, system managers, system administrators, contracting staff, HR staff), documents those roles and responsibilities, and provides appropriate additional information system security training. Security training records will be monitored and maintained. The Talent Management System offers the following applicable privacy courses:

- VA 10176: Privacy and Information Security Awareness and Rules of Behavior
- VA 10203: Privacy and HIPPA Training
- VA 3812493: Annual Government Ethics.

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

8.4a If Yes, provide:

1. The Systems Security Plan Status: Complete
2. The Systems Security Plan Status Date: 8/17/2023
3. The Authorization Status: Complete
4. The Authorization Date: 8/17/2023
5. The Authorization Termination Date: 4/20/2025
6. The Risk Review Completion Date: 8/17/2023
7. The FIPS 199 classification of the system (LOW/MODERATE/HIGH): Please provide response here

Please note that all Areas containing PII/PHI are categorized at a minimum level of “LOW” under Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 199.

8.4b If No or In Process, provide your **Initial Operating Capability (IOC) date**.

**Section 9. References**

**Summary of Privacy Controls by Family**

*Summary of Privacy Controls by Family*

<b>ID</b>	<b>Privacy Controls</b>
<b>AP</b>	<b>Authority and Purpose</b>
AP-1	Authority to Collect
AP-2	Purpose Specification
<b>AR</b>	<b>Accountability, Audit, and Risk Management</b>
AR-1	Governance and Privacy Program
AR-2	Privacy Impact and Risk Assessment
AR-3	Privacy Requirements for Contractors and Service Providers
AR-4	Privacy Monitoring and Auditing
AR-5	Privacy Awareness and Training
AR-7	Privacy-Enhanced Area Design and Development

<b>ID</b>	<b>Privacy Controls</b>
AR-8	Accounting of Disclosures
<b>DI</b>	<b>Data Quality and Integrity</b>
DI-1	Data Quality
DI-2	Data Integrity and Data Integrity Board
<b>DM</b>	<b>Data Minimization and Retention</b>
DM-1	Minimization of Personally Identifiable Information
DM-2	Data Retention and Disposal
DM-3	Minimization of PII Used in Testing, Training, and Research
<b>IP</b>	<b>Individual Participation and Redress</b>
IP-1	Consent
IP-2	Individual Access
IP-3	Redress
IP-4	Complaint Management
<b>SE</b>	<b>Security</b>
SE-1	Inventory of Personally Identifiable Information
SE-2	Privacy Incident Response
<b>TR</b>	<b>Transparency</b>
TR-1	Privacy Notice
TR-2	Area of Records Notices and Privacy Act Statements
TR-3	Dissemination of Privacy Program Information
<b>UL</b>	<b>Use Limitation</b>
UL-1	Internal Use
UL-2	Information Sharing with Third Parties

**Signature of Privacy Officers**

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

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**Privacy Officer, Ursula Jones**

**Signature of Information System Security Officers**

**The Information System Security Officers below attest that the information provided in this Privacy Impact Assessment is true and accurate.**

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**Information System Security Officer, Maria Young**

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**Information System Security Officer, James Ponce**

**Signature of Area Manager**

**The Area Manager below attests that the information provided in this Privacy Impact Assessment is true and accurate.**

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**Area Manager, Patrick Ferguson**

## APPENDIX A – Notice

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).

### *Applicable Notices*

<i>Site Type: VBA/VHA/NCA or Program Office</i>	<i>Applicable NOPPs</i>
VHA	<a href="#"><u>Notice of Privacy Practices</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>VHA Privacy and Release of Information:</u></a>



## APPENDIX B – PII Mapped to Components

**Note:** Due to the PIA being a public facing document, please do not include the server names in the table.

*PII Mapping of Components (Servers/Database)*

<i>Components of the Area collecting/storing PII (Each row refers to a grouping of databases associated with a single server)</i>	<i>Does this component collect PII? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>Does this component store PII? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>Does this component share, receive, and/or transmit PII? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>Type of PII (SSN, DOB, etc.)</i>	<i>Reason for Collection/ Storage of PII</i>	<i>Safeguards</i>	<i>Applicable Sites within Area (VBA, VHA, NCA, Program Office)</i>
Server 1 VISTA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Names, SSN, Address, D.O.B. Administrative and Medical Records.	Electronic Health Record	NIST Controls in place.	JJP VAMC
Server 2 ImedConsent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Medical Records	Electronic Health Records	NIST Controls in place.	JJP VAMC
Server 3 Optifill	Yes	Yes	Yes	Pharmacy Records	Electronic Health Records	NIST Controls in place.	JJP VAMC
Server 4 ACCU-check	Yes	Yes	Yes	Medical Records	Electronic Health Records	NIST Controls in place.	<b>JJP VAMC</b>

**APPENDIX C – List of Special Purpose Systems**

*This table is only to be completed for Special Purpose Systems. This information must match the special purpose systems listed in 3.7 of the Area PTA.*

Name of Special Purpose Systems