

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–0649]

Agency Information Collection (National Registry of Veterans With Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3521), this notice announces that the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Department of Veterans Affairs, will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden and includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before December 21, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through <http://www.Regulations.gov>; or to VA's OMB Desk Officer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503, (202) 395–7316. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900–0649" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Denise McLamb, Enterprise Records Service (005R1B), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461–7485, fax (202) 273–0443 or e-mail denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900–0649."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Titles:

- ALS Registry Screening Form, VA Form 10–21047.
- Biannual Telephone National Registry of Veterans with ALS, VA Form 10–21047a.
- Verbal Informed Consent VIA Telephone, National Registry of Veterans with ALS, VA Form 10–21047b.

OMB Control Number: 2900–0649.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: ALS is a disease of high priority to the Department of Veterans Affairs because of ongoing concerns about the health of veterans who served in the Gulf War. The creation of the registry will have significance both for VA and for the larger U.S. society in

understanding the natural history of ALS. It will provide VA with crucial epidemiological data on the current population of veterans with ALS, as well as the ongoing identification of new cases. The data will help VA to understand how veterans are affected by ALS and may assist with early identification of new ALS clusters. This registry will provide a mechanism for informing veterans with ALS of new clinical drug trials and other studies.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on September 14, 2009, at page 47042.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 882.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 29 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Semi-annually.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,808.

Dated: November 16, 2009.

By direction of the Secretary.

Denise McLamb,

Program Analyst, Enterprise Records Service.

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BILLING CODE 8320–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

ACTION: Notice of amendment to system of records.

SUMMARY: As required by the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a(e), notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is amending the system of records currently entitled "Patient Medical Records–VA" (24VA19) as set forth in the **Federal Register**, 69 FR 18428 (Apr. 7, 2004). VA is amending the system by revising the Categories of Records in the System, and Routine Uses of Records Maintained in the System, Including Categories of Users and the Purposes of Such Uses; and Policies and Practices for Storing, Retrieving, Accessing, Retaining, and Disposing of Records in the System. VA is republishing the system notice in its entirety.

DATES: Comments on the amendment of this system of records must be received

no later than December 21, 2009. If no public comment is received, the amended system will become effective December 21, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted through <http://www.Regulations.gov>; by mail or hand-delivery to Director, Regulations Management (02REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Room 1068, Washington, DC 20420; or by fax to (202) 273–9026. (This is not a toll-free number). Copies of comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Room 1063B, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays). Please call (202) 461–4902 (this is not a toll-free number) for an appointment. In addition, during the comment period, comments may be viewed online through the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at <http://www.Regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Privacy Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420; telephone (704) 245–2492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Patient Medical Records–VA (24VA19) system of records is amended to clarify the records in the system, to clarify records storage, and to clarify and add routine use disclosure statements.

Categories of Records in the System is amended to reflect subsidiary record information such as minimum data sets (MDS) being included in the consolidated health record (CHR).

Practices for Storing, Retrieving, Accessing, Retaining, and Disposing of Records in the System is amended to reflect records being maintained on electronic media, which includes images and scanned documents.

Routine use thirteen (13) is amended to add the phrase "or designee, such as the Medical Center Director of the facility where the information is maintained" after "Under Secretary for Health." This language clarifies that designated individuals may approve the disclosure of information from records maintained at their facilities for the purpose of research.

Routine use fourteen (14) is amended to add the language "health information, including." This language clarifies that not only names and addresses of veterans but any health information about veterans may also be disclosed for Federal research.

Routine use fifteen (15) is amended to permit disclosure to the Department of