

DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

Memorandum

Date: July 3, 2003

From: Associate Deputy Director of Provider Systems (192)

Subj: Notification of problem documented in NOIS MIN-1102-41224, MAC-1102-60558,
and ALB-0203-51395

To: Blood Bank Supervisors (113)

THRU: National Director, P&LMS (115)

As a part of our Corrective and Preventive Action (CAPA) requirements and our on going efforts for continued improvement, analysis of recent National On-Line Information Sharing (NOIS) submissions has identified two problems. The extent of each problem and a recommendation for action(s) to be taken until the release of a patch in the late 2003 to early 2004 timeframe is given. No patient risk has been identified related to these problems.

Problem #1:

The logic used by the BLOOD BANK INVENTORY INTEGRITY OPTION to set the "C" cross-reference in the BLOOD INVENTORY file (#65) is different from the one used in the Data Dictionary. These invalid "C" cross-references may sometimes interfere with the lookup process. When a unit is scanned that contains a unit number similar to one that was previously accessioned, the system automatically assigns the previous unit's blood type.

Action for Problem #1:

If the previous unit's blood type is automatically assigned, it must be corrected through the supervisor editing option, "Edit unit log-in" [LRBLSEL].
Submit a NOIS if this problem is observed.

Problem #2:

The PERSON ENTERING REACTION field (#.03) of the TRANSFUSION REACTION DATE sub-file (#.086) of the LAB DATA file (#63) may be populated with an incorrect name or not allow the entry of a name. The problem manifests in two scenarios:

Scenario A: when the DUZ (i.e., internal record number in the New Person file #200) of the user who is currently logged on is the same as the last four digits of the another user's SSN, the system will automatically enters the name of the person with the matching SSN in the field. This "match" is not the correct user who has the same DUZ as the "match" on the SSN.

Scenario B: when the logged-on user and another user both have last names that start with the same initial, and the last four digits of their SSNs are identical, the lookup logic will not let the user proceed.

Action for Problem #2:

Submit a NOIS if this problem is observed.

VHA transfusions services are directed to post, provide notice and training to all affected employees, and incorporate the instructions given in this document into their daily business practices. Procedure Manuals must be modified to reflect this change.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fred H. Rodriguez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

FRED H. RODRIGUEZ, M.D.

National Director, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Service