VA Coding Algorithms Discussion

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Together our impact is greater

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SCI

- SCI at the heart of each algorithm and drive the cause assignments

- **SCI are the key to cause assignment**, regardless of the algorithm you use

- **SCI describe the relationship between VA symptoms and causes and that relationship varies among populations and changes through time**

- **Consequently, SCI must evolve and be localized for specific populations**

SCI Repository

We propose an **SCI Repository**

- Contains VA deaths with de-biased physician codes (or causes assigned through another reliable mechanism)

- A community of users regularly conduct physician coding on a fraction of VA deaths and contribute anonymized data to the repository

- Deaths in the repository used to generate SCI for all of the algorithms

- That same community of users (and maybe eventually everyone) have access the SCI produced by the repository

SCI Repository

Result:

- Over time, SCI that are both localized and evolve to reflect changing epidemiological and treatment conditions in a population

- **greatly increases the accuracy and utility of VA causes of death for everyone, regardless of which algorithm is used**

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Important: The SCI repository and regular updating of SCI is **routine** part of ongoing mortality surveillance **not research**