

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Associate Commissioner for Income Security Programs as shown above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. General

The Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988 (Public Law (Pub. L.) 100-503) amended the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) by establishing the conditions under which computer matching involving the Federal Government could be performed and adding certain protections for individuals applying for and receiving Federal benefits. Section 7201 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-508) further amended the Privacy Act regarding protections for such individuals.

The Privacy Act, as amended, regulates the use of computer matching by Federal agencies when records in a system of records are matched with other Federal, State, or local government records. It requires Federal agencies involved in computer matching programs to:

- (1) Negotiate written agreements with the other agency or agencies participating in the matching programs;
- (2) Obtain the Data Integrity Boards' approval of the match agreements;
- (3) Publish notice of the computer matching program in the **Federal Register**;
- (4) Furnish detailed reports about matching programs to Congress and OMB;
- (5) Notify applicants and beneficiaries that their records are subject to matching; and
- (6) Verify match findings before reducing, suspending, terminating, or denying an individual's benefits or payments.

B. SSA Computer Matches Subject to the Privacy Act

We have taken action to ensure that all of SSA's computer matching programs comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act, as amended.

Dated: September 10, 2003.

Martin H. Gerry,

Deputy Commissioner for Disability and Income Security Programs.

Notice of Computer Matching Program, Social Security Administration (SSA) With the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

A. Participating Agencies

SSA and CMS.

B. Purpose of the Matching Program

The purpose of this matching program is to identify Supplemental Security

Income (SSI) recipients and Special Veterans' Benefits (SVB) beneficiaries who have been admitted to certain public institutions. The program will thereby facilitate benefit reductions required under certain provisions of title XVI of the Social Security Act (Act) for individuals in such institutions and benefit terminations required under certain provisions of title VIII of the Act for individuals no longer residing outside the United States.

C. Authority for Conducting the Matching Program

Sections 1611(e)(1)(A) and (B), 1631(f), 801 and 806(a) and (b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1382(e)(1)(A) and (B), 1383(f), 1001 and 1006(a) and (b)); 20 CFR 416.211. Routine Use Number 19, effective 1/6/95, allows disclosure to Federal, State or local agencies for administering cash or noncash income maintenance or health maintenance programs.

D. Categories of Records and Individuals Covered by the Matching Program

On the basis of certain identifying information regarding SSI and SVB applicants, recipients and beneficiaries as provided by SSA to CMS, CMS will provide SSA with electronic files containing skilled nursing facility admission and billing data from its Long-Term Care Minimum Data Set, LTC/MDS 09-70-1516, system of records. SSA will then match the CMS data with SSI and SVB payment information maintained in the Supplemental Security Income Record, SSA/OEEAS 60-0103, system of records.

E. Inclusive Dates of the Matching Program

The matching program shall become effective no sooner than 40 days after notice for the program is sent to Congress and OMB, or 30 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, whichever date is later. The matching program will continue for 18 months from the effective date and may be extended for an additional 12 months thereafter, if certain conditions are met. [FR Doc. 03-23630 Filed 9-16-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-NEW-ALS]

Agency Information Collection 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. 3501-21), this notice announces that the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted 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 October 17, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY OF THE SUBMISSION CONTACT: Denise McLamb, Records Management Service (005E3), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-8030, FAX (202) 273-5981 or e-mail: *denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov*. Please refer to 2900-New-ALS."

Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection 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 "2900-New-ALS."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Titles:

a. National Registry of Veterans with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), ALS Initial Baseline Screening Form, VA Form 10-21047.

b. VA Research Consent Form, VA Form 10-1086.

c. National Registry of Veterans with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), ALS Registry Phone Interviews, VA Form 10-21047a.

Type of Review: New collection.

Abstract: Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (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, assist with early identification of new ALS clusters, provide a mechanism for informing veterans with ALS of new clinical drug trials and other studies, and examine the causes (*e.g.*, genetic and environmental) and course of this disease.

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 May 6, 2003 at page 24050.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden:

a. National Registry of Veterans with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS),

ALS Initial Baseline Screening Form, VA Form, 10-21047-365 hours.

b. VA Research Consent Form, VA Form 10-1086-207 hours.

c. National Registry of Veterans with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), ALS Registry Phone Interviews, VA Form 10-21047a-1,237 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:

a. National Registry of Veterans with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), ALS Initial Baseline Screening Form, VA Form, 10-21047-30 minutes.

b. VA Research Consent Form, VA Form 10-1086-20 minutes.

c. National Registry of Veterans with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), ALS Registry Phone Interviews, VA Form 21047a-30 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Semi-annually.

Estimated Number of Respondents:

a. National Registry of Veterans with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS),

ALS Initial Baseline Screening Form, VA Form, 10-21047-729.

b. VA Research Consent Form, VA Form 10-1086-620.

c. National Registry of Veterans with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), ALS Registry Phone Interviews, VA Form 10-21047a-1,431.

Estimated Number of Responses:

a. National Registry of Veterans with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), ALS Initial Baseline Screening Form, VA Form, 10-21047-729.

b. VA Research Consent Form, VA Form 10-1086-620.

c. National Registry of Veterans with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), ALS Registry Phone Interviews, 10-21047a-2,474.

Dated: September 9, 2003.

By direction of the Secretary.

Jacqueline Parks,

IT Specialist, Records Management Service.

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