**14 October 2014**

DMDC Separatee Processing

for the

MHS Data Repository (MDR)

(Version 1.00.01)

Current Specification

**Revision History**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Version** | **Date**  | **Para/Tbl/Fig** | **Originator** | **Description of Change** |
| 1.00.00 | 5/6/2013 | * Initial publication
 | W. Funk |  |
| 1.00.01 | 10/14/2014 | * Table 3
 | W. Funk | Dropped the old field component and created two new internally derived fields; one for service and the other for component. |

**DMDC Separatee Processing for the MDR**

1. Background:

The MHS provides health information to the Veteran’s Administration and DMDC for service members who have separated from the military. This DMDC separatee file serves as a “finder file” for obtaining the required health records. Furthermore, information about separation can be informative for research and operational questions surrounding force retention.

1. Source:

The source of the Separatee file is the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC).

1. Transmission (Format and Frequency):

The separatee file is transmitted on a monthly basis from DMDC in accordance with ICD XX. The input file is “#” delimited.

1. Organization and Batching

Source Data: The first step in MDR processing is to store the raw files in

mdr/raw/fhie/separatee/separatee.d*yymmdd.txt* where “yymmdd” represents the date of the file.

Output Products: The MDR DMDC Separatee processor produces the files described in table 1. The preparation of them is described in subsequent sections of this document.

**Table 1: MDR DMDC Separatee Processor Output Products**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **File** | **File Naming Convention** | **Member Name** |
| MDR Separatee | mdr/restricted/fhie/separatee/separatee.sds | yymm |

Archival of files is also required, so that corresponding “apub” and other files (i.e., log, aprod, etc) are also loaded into the MDR according to routine operating procedures.

1. Receiving Filters

Records are only included if the separation date is 1 October 2001 or later.

1. Update Process

The monthly files from DMDC are full-file refreshes. Updates are not applied but rather, data are reprocessed each month.

1. Field Transformations and Deletions for MDR Core Database

Minimal field transformations are derived in processing. The only merge is described in table 2.

**Table 2: External Reference File Merges**

| **Merge** | **Date Matching** | **Additional Matching** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MDR Separatee file from month prior to processing. | N/A | SSN |

Business rules for each of the appended fields that result from the merges above, are described in the body of the table in Section VIII.

1. Record Layout and Content

The table below describes the content of the MDR DMDC Separatee file.

**Table 3: MDR DMDC Separatee Dataset Structure and Business Rules**

| **Data Element** | **SAS Name** | **Format** | **Input Order in Source Feed** | **Business Rule** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date of Birth | patdob | SAS Date | 2 | Transform to a SAS Date. |
| Gender | patsex | $1 | 3 | No transformation. |
| Social Security Number | sponssn | $9 | 4 | No transformation. |
| DEERS Person ID | edi\_pn | $10 | 5 | No transformation. |
| Separation Date | sep\_date | SAS Date | 6 | Transform to a SAS Date. |
| Grade | grade | $1 | 8 | No transformation. |
| Death Flag | death | $1 | 10 | No transformation. |
| Separation Status | sep\_stat | $1 | 11 | No transformation. |
| **Fields from Merge to Previous Month’s Separation File** |
| New Record Date | new\_date | $4 | N/A | Merge to previous month’s separatee file. Set to “yymm” from the feed header if the record for this SSN is in this month’s feed but not in last month’s feed. |
| **Internally Derived Fields** |
| Last Name | lastname | $27 | 1 | Copy data from feed up until (but not including) the first comma in the beneficiary name data field from the feed. |
| First Name | firstname | $20 | 1 | Copy data after the comma (not not including it) in the beneficiary name data field from the feed. |
| Separation Code | separation | $3 | 9 | If length less than three, pad with leading 0s until length is three. |
| Service Branch | service | $1 | 7 | 1st character of field 7. |
| Component | component | $1 | 7 | 2nd character of field 7. |

1. Refresh Frequency

Monthly

1. Quality Review Requirements

In order to ensure processing is done correctly, several basic quality review requirements are presented in this section.

1. Basic Data Flow Process Check: A spreadsheet should be maintained that tracks record counts inbound and outbound. No records are deleted in the process so the record counts should be the same.
2. File Size: Record counts should increase in the feed each month. If they do not, contact the source.
3. Proc contents should be reviewed and compared against specifications to ensure conformance.
4. A frequency of sep\_stat and separation should be reviewed to see if major changes have occurred. If so, the functional proponent should be alerted.
5. Routine feed and file management procedures should be followed for the MDR DMDC Separation file.
6. Data Marts

N/A

1. Special Outputs

N/A