

Blaise Integration with Other Software Systems in Health Services Research at the Iowa City VAMC

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Abstract:

Our research unit is currently developing and implementing several Blaise data collection instruments. Research study tracking databases using Microsoft Access and SQL Server organize subject contact information, mail invitation letters, track research consent, mail payment for participation, and provide detailed reports of participant status to Research Coordinators. Current development work allows real time participant information to be sent to Blaise from Microsoft Access using Blaise command line parameters and Microsoft Access VBA. Our Blaise interviews range from 250 questions with minimal skip patterns to over 2,000 questions with numerous complex skip patterns. Interviews completed in Blaise are output to SAS datasets for analysis using a modified Cameleon script. Questions skipped via Blaise routing patterns are filled with missing field codes using SAS programs so that all missing values are coded in the analytical files. While surveys are always thoroughly tested in the BLAISE environment before going into production, this also presents an additional method of testing the complex skip patterns once real data is collected.