

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: October 30, 2020

From: Mary M Klote, M.D., Director of Research Protections, Policy and Education

Subj: Request for OMB review and consideration of emergency clearance for “Million Veteran Program (MVP) COVID-19 Response Survey”

To: Paul J. Ray
Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA)

Cc: VA Desk Officer, James Crowe
Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

The Million Veteran Program is a national, voluntary, medical research program. MVP establishes an ongoing partnership with Veteran participants who give their informed consent to authorize access to electronic health record data, provide biospecimens for further analysis, and/or provide self-reported data through methods such as personal logs and surveys.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, all MVP participants are invited to complete the MVP COVID-19 survey. The survey collects demographics, COVID-19 symptoms and treatment, comorbidity, healthcare utilization, well-being, and psychosocial outcomes. Survey data analyzed in conjunction with biospecimens will assist with identification of potential biomarkers and also allow researchers to analyze the incidence and outcomes of COVID-19 using genomic data.

The VA Office of Research and Development has funded this research study based on its originality in addressing the health care needs of veterans. This decision was based upon coordination with the ORD COVID-19 Steering Committee review and the program manager’s examination of other research supported by VA and other organizations. The survey is not duplicative of any other survey with this population.

Emergency clearance is requested in order to timely gather data related to the COVID-19 pandemic and provide valuable data on COVID-19 outcomes using genomic data. OMB PRA approval is respectfully requested by **November 10, 2020**.

Questions may be addressed to Lori Churby via phone at (650) 814-8552 or via email at Lori.Churby@va.gov

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

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SES Equivalent, Title 38
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