

March 2009 NOTICE: To our research community:

As many of you are aware, the Research Data Distribution Center (RDDC) work has transitioned from Acumen to Buccaneer Computer Systems and Service, Inc. (BCSSI) as of December 31, 2008. We wanted to take a few minutes to communicate the status of this transition and the many impacted data requests. Over the last several months BCSSI has been working jointly with CMS, Research Data Assistant Center (RESDAC) and Acumen in order to transition this work and the fulfillment of your data requests as quickly as possible. Having said that, we also understand your frustration about the delay in getting the data requests fulfilled timely and have appreciated your patience as the RDDC continues to do everything in their power to acquire, capture, process and ultimately distribute the data to you.

As you can imagine the volume of data transitioned is quite large as there are over 11,000 data files involved, equating to approximately 17 terabytes of data. For long-term efficiency purposes, much of this data needs to get loaded into relational and/or dimensional databases. Part of the transition effort also involves the development of cross-walks that enable prior Acumen identifiers to be linked to new BCSSI identifiers where applicable.

RDDC is making good progress on the transition tasks and are fulfilling requests as soon as they can. For requests containing multiple data files, we have asked the RDDC to provide files as soon as they become available. This means that some requestors will receive a partial fulfillment of their request and will receive the other files as they become available. We appreciate your continued patience as we work through this transition period. Any questions or status updates regarding your data request may be directed to cmsdata@bcssi.com.