VistA Blood Establishment Computer Software
(VBECS) 2.4.0

Release Notes Version 2.0

Department of Veterans Affairs
Enterprise Project Management Office

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Introduction

VistA Blood Establishment Computer Software (VBECS) 2.4.0 Release Notes contains information for changes and corrections made to VBECS in the 2.4.0 Rev A patch.

Perform a local evaluation and risk assessment of the changes to determine the requirements for local validation of the changes, including documentation of the assessment activities. See Validation Planning.

Changed Features and Functions

This code patch release is focused around providing read-only access to sites transitioned to Cerner PathNet and providing solutions to customer reported issues and enhancements.

VA initiatives

- Provide read-only data for Cerner PathNet transitioned sites with limited menu access in VBECS.
- Provide a read-only watermark for all accessible reports & queries for all sites transitioned to VBECS Read-Only.
- Continue to provide JLV access for sites transitioned to VBECS Read Only.
- Continue to provide compliance with federal records and information management regulations.

Solutions to Known Requests and Defects

- Fix known requests and defects related to Maintain Collection Facility to allow all security levels access to this function.
- Fix known requests and defects related to reports and printing.
- Fix known requests and defects related to canned comments.
- Fix known requests and defects related to the VBECS Help.

Table 1: Updates by Option (Non-Read-Only Site) and **Table 2: Updates by Option (Read-Only Site)** provide a complete list of included changes with suggested validation scenarios. For sites with the Read-Only setting being enabled use **Table 2**. All other sites use **Table 1**.

NOTE: The validation scenarios included in **Table 2** can be used in the future if a site transitions to VBECS Read-Only.

Untestable System-Level Maintenance Changes

- Implement xUnit for unit testing and code coverage.
- Implement Azure Monitor Agent (AMA) for monitoring.
- Renew Remote Desktop certificates.

VistA Software Dependencies

- VistA informational patch VBEC*2*14

VBECS User Documents

The following is a list of all the VBECS user documents that apply to the VBECS 2.4.0 Rev A patch release. The **Updated** column identifies the documents that have been updated with this VBECS 2.4.0 Rev A patch release.

These user documents are available from the VBECS SharePoint site at <mark>REDACTED</mark>

User Document	Version	Updated
VBECS 2.4.0 User Guide	1.0	Yes
VBECS 2.4.0 Admin User Guide	1.0	Yes
VBECS 2.4.0 Known Defects and Anomalies	1.0	Yes
VBECS 2.4.0 Technical Manual-Security Guide	1.0	Yes
VBECS - Echo Interface Configuration and Setup Guide	6.0	No
VBECS - Erytra Interface Configuration and Setup Guide	3.0	No
VBECS - ProVue Interface Configuration and Setup Guide	6.0	No
VBECS - Vision Interface Configuration and Setup Guide	5.0	No
VBECS Product Information	11.0	Yes

The following is a list of all the VBECS FAQ documents that apply to the VBECS 2.4.0 Rev A patch release. The **Updated** column identifies the documents that have been updated with this VBECS 2.4.0 Rev A patch release.

These FAQ documents are available from the VA SharePoint site at <mark>REDACTED</mark>

FAQ Document	Version	Updated
FAQ ABO Subgroup Interpretations	11/22/16	No
FAQ Accreditation Questions Regarding Laboratory Information Systems	6/9/23	No
FAQ Ancillary VistA Validation	11/28/17	No
FAQ Antibodies with No Antigen Negative Requirement	10/15/14	No
FAQ Blood Product Table Processes	2/21/23	No
FAQ CAP Comprehensive Transfusions Medicine Crossmatch Survey	11/22/16	No
FAQ CPRS VBECS Order Details	04/01/09	No
FAQ Database Conversion Oddballs	09/15/09	No
FAQ Documenting Unhandled Exceptions	05/21/07	No
FAQ Handling ABO Incompatible Transfusion Situations	09/23/14	No
FAQ How to File a New Service Request for Changes to VBECS	12/08/16	No
FAQ How to take faster screen shots from Remote Desktop Session	12/17/14	No
FAQ Identifying a Comparable Blood Product Code	09/03/21	No
FAQ Local Facilities	06/12/20	No
FAQ Modification Target Not Available	11/28/17	No
FAQ Multidivisional QC Rack Workaround	11/28/17	No
FAQ Order Status Clarification	11/15/17	No
FAQ Polyspecific AHG Not Used for Testing	01/29/10	No
FAQ Proper Use of PIV Card with VBECS	09/14/21	No
FAQ QC Setup	01/29/10	No
FAQ Retesting QC	11/01/11	No
FAQ Retrieving an Expired Order	12/07/17	No
FAQ The Difference Between Transfusion Only and Full Service Facility Types	02/08/10	No
FAQ VBECS Blood Product Hierarchy	03/28/19	No
FAQ VBECS Computer Crossmatch Decision Tree	02/08/12	No
FAQ Weak D Policy	01/11/10	No
FAQ What is VBECS Read-Only	04/04/24	Yes
FAQ Workload Assignments Single vs Batch Processing	07/01/20	No

Customer Support

Contact your **Local/Regional** Office of Information Technology (OIT) or Laboratory Information Manager (LIM) if you encounter VistA or CPRS connection problems and for training support **before** contacting the Service Desk (SD).

Please ensure local/regional VistA Support contact information is available at all times.

If you experience an FDA reportable adverse event (patient death or serious injury) that VBECS may have caused or contributed to, contact the Service Desk directly to enter a ticket for Blood Bank software support.

If the problem remains unresolved after local VistA triage, call the Service Desk (below) and specify the Affected Service be set as VBECS (VistA - Blood Establishment Computer Software)

Service Desk Contact

Call the Service Desk REDACTED

For troubleshooting error messages in VBECS that read similar to Contact Your System Administrator, contact the Service Desk.

References

- *None*

VBECS SharePoint Site

The VBECS SharePoint site provides a location for additional information related to the VBECS application such as FAQs, installation status, remote desktop and report share shortcuts, and release history.
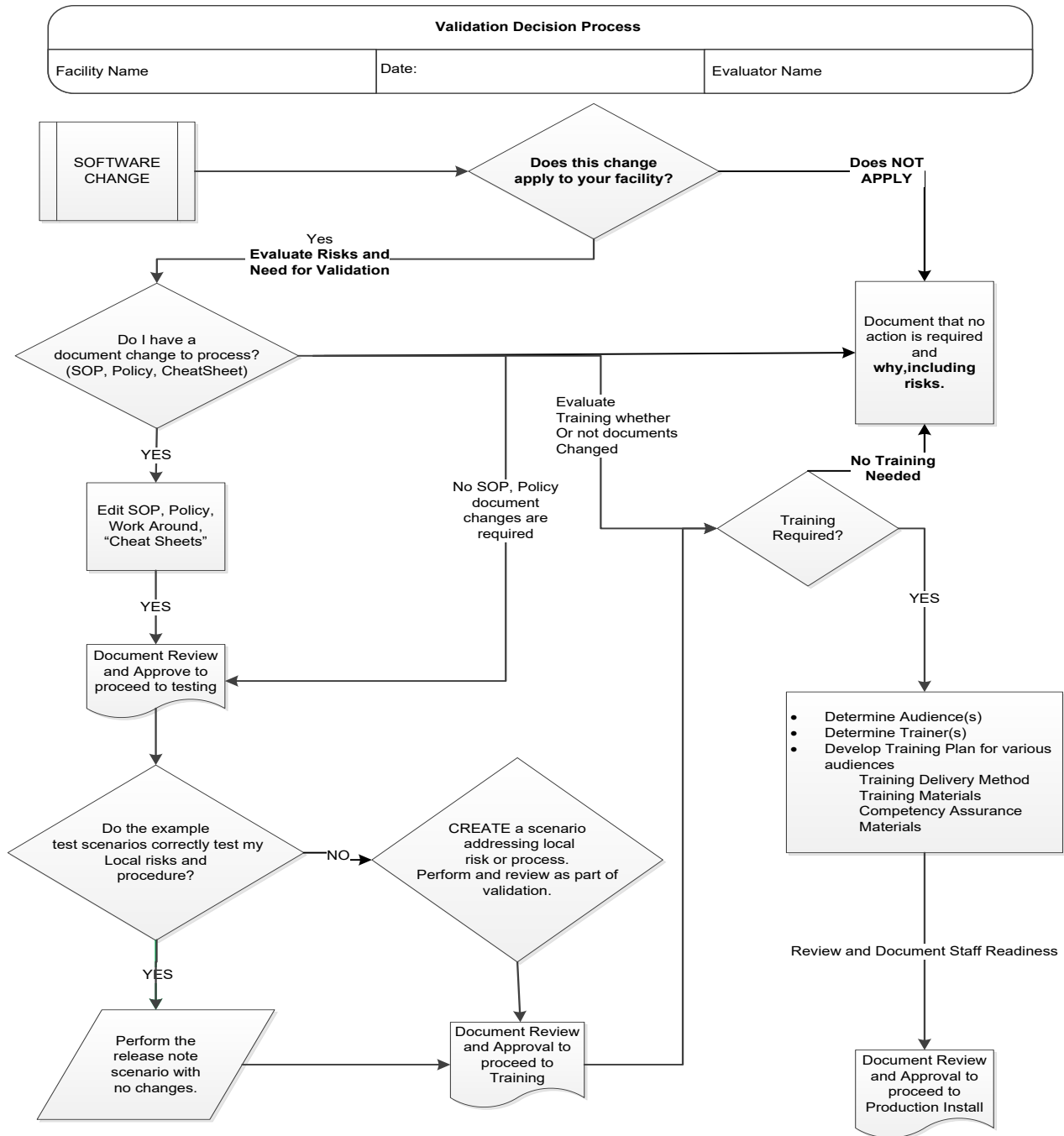
REDACTED

Installation Qualification (IQ) Documentation

Test Account Upgrade to VBECS 2.4.0 Revision A	
Required Patch Installation	VistA Patch: None Server Patch: VBECS 2.4.0 Revision A
Installation Process for VBECS 2.4.0 Rev A	Installed by the BBM team. A small number of sites will be installed each day over several days.
Expected Downtime	Patch installation is expected to take several hours but may take up to 24 hours.
Installation Communication for VBECS 2.4.0 Rev A	The BBM Team will communicate the date of patch installation. The status of migration will be communicated directly to the affected users.
Site Responsibility	• Join VBECS-L message board on ListServ, if needed (http://vaww.listserv.va.gov/scripts/wa.exe?SUBED1=VBECS-L&A=1). • Communicate any changes to your site supervisor and Point of Contact (POC) since the last patch install to the BBM team to the email group "VA OIT BBM Team". • Perform local validation, training, and set-up requirements prior to Production installation.
Site Record of Patch Installation	Sites should take and save a screenshot of the VBECS Help, About window after the Test installation is performed. This displays the VBECS updated version information.

Production Account Upgrade to VBECS 2.4.0 Revision A	
Required Patch Installation	VistA Patch: None Server Patch: VBECS 2.4.0 Revision A
Installation Process for VBECS 2.4.0 Rev A	Installed by the BBM team. Each site will schedule a date for installation. The BBM team will contact sites for installation date/time when the production installation window begins.
Expected Downtime	Patch installation is expected to take several hours but may take up to 24 hours. The site will follow downtime procedures until installation completes.
Installation Communication for VBECS 2.4.0 Rev A	The status of production installs will be provided on the VBECS SharePoint site.
Site Responsibility	• Perform local validation, training, and set-up requirements prior to Production installation. • Join VBECS-L message board on ListServ, if needed (http://vaww.listserv.va.gov/scripts/wa.exe?SUBED1=VBECS-L&A=1). • Communicate any changes to your site supervisor and Point of Contact (POC) since the last patch install to the BBM team to the email group "VA OIT BBM Team".
Site Record of Patch Installation	Sites should take and save a screenshot of the VBECS Help, About window after Production installation is performed. This displays the VBECS updated version information.

Validation Planning

The following is a flowchart to help assess changes for validation planning.

Validation Decision Process

Facility Name	Date:	Evaluator Name

SOFTWARE CHANGE

Does this change apply to your facility?

Does NOT APPLY

Yes
Evaluate Risks and Need for Validation

Do I have a document change to process? (SOP, Policy, CheatSheet)

Document that no action is required and **why, including risks.**

YES

Evaluate Training whether Or not documents Changed

No SOP, Policy document changes are required

Edit SOP, Policy, Work Around, "Cheat Sheets"

No Training Needed

Training Required?

YES

Document Review and Approve to proceed to testing

- Determine Audience(s)
- Determine Trainer(s)
- Develop Training Plan for various audiences
  Training Delivery Method
  Training Materials
  Competency Assurance Materials

Do the example test scenarios correctly test my Local risks and procedure?

NO

CREATE a scenario addressing local risk or process. Perform and review as part of validation.

YES

Review and Document Staff Readiness

Perform the release note scenario with no changes.

Document Review and Approval to proceed to Training

Document Review and Approval to proceed to Production Install

Table 1: Updates by Option (Non-Read-Only Site)

ID	Option	Problem Summary	Change Summary	Validation Scenario	Change applies to my facility. (Y/N)	Local risk Assessment (Low, Med, High)	SOP revision required. If yes, identify it.	Staff training needed. (Y/N)	Scenarios or validation must be performed. (Y/N)
1	Throughout VBECS	Added read-only access to VBECS	A VBECS site can be configured by OIT for read-only access to VBECS with disabled menu items, allowing no user initiated changes but remaining active for all report generations, inquiries, and access to all patient historical information (NSR 20210910).	Open VBECS. Verify you can open Accept Orders menu option. Verify windows do not contain "Read-Only" in the title bar or heading.					
2	Throughout VBECS	Added read-only watermark	All screens and printed reports indicate when the read-only option is in effect.	Open VBECS. Open the **Administrative Data** report. Set the Start Date year to 2000 and view the report. Verify the report does not contain "VBECS DATA IS READ ONLY" in the report header of any page.					
3	JLV	JLV continues to display VBECS data.	VBECS data remains accessible via JLV. (VBECS already supports JLV. No application change needed.)	If you have access to JLV, verify you can pull up the Blood Bank Report for any patient. JLV is supported and maintained independent of VBECS by the JLV team. If you have issues accessing JLV, please refer to *Logging Into JLV* in the JLV User Guide for detailed information about how to access JLV. If you are still having issues accessing JLV, please contact the Enterprise Service Desk for assistance at 855-NSD-HELP or https://yourit.va.gov.					

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4	Throughout VBECS	Continue to provide federal records compliance	VBECS data continues to be in compliance with Federal records and information management regulations. (VBECS already supports this. No application change needed.)	Validation not required					
5	Maintain Collection Facility	Allow all users to add new facilities	Permission to add a new collection facility has changed from Enhanced Supervisor (Level 5) to Blood Bank Technologist (Level 1).	This requires a Level-1 (Technologist) for validation. Open VBECS. Open Tools-> Local Facilities. In the FDA number type 4444444. Verify the form opens, allowing you to enter more fields. There is no need to save.					
6	Report Printing	Known defects and anomalies	• Clicking the 'Print' button for large reports while the report is loading no longer freezes the session and printer. • No longer displaying a warning that the report will be longer than 50 pages.	Validation not required.					
7	Maintain Canned Comments	Known defects and anomalies	Canned comments now allow for up to 250 characters.	Validation not required.					
8	VBECS Help	Known defects and anomalies	• A typo on the Help About screen has been corrected. • The VBECS Manufacturer Address on the Help About screen has been corrected. • The Help menu correctly shows the shortcut "F1".	Validation not required.					

⚠ NOTE: The table below is for sites with the Read-Only setting enabled.

Table 2: Updates by Option (Read-Only Site)

ID	Option	Problem Summary	Change Summary	Validation Scenario	Change applies to my facility. (Y/N)	Local risk Assessment (Low, Med, High)	SOP revision required. If yes, identify it.	Staff training needed. (Y/N)	Scenarios or validation must be performed. (Y/N)
1	Throughout VBECS	Added read-only access to VBECS	A VBECS site can be configured by OIT for read-only access to VBECS with disabled menu items, allowing no user initiated changes but remaining active for all report generations, inquiries, and access to all patient historical information (NSR 20210910).	Open VBECS. Verify that most menu options are disabled and those enabled only allow you to view/print/export data (i.e., you are not allowed to edit existing data). Screens will contain "Read-Only" in the title bar or heading.					
2	Throughout VBECS	Added read-only watermark	All screens and printed reports indicate when the read-only option is in effect.	Open VBECS. Open the **Administrative Data** report. Set the Start Date year to 2000 and view the report. Verify the report contains "VBECS DATA IS READ ONLY" in the report header of every page.					

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5	Maintain Collection Facility	Allow all users to add new facilities	Permission to add a new collection facility has changed from Enhanced Supervisor (Level 5) to Blood Bank Technologist (Level 1).	The Local Facilities option is not available. Validation not required.					
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Revision History

Date	Revision	Description	Author
4/4/24	1.0	VBECS 2.4.0 Rev A Initial version	BBM Team
4/25/24	2.0	VBECS 2.4.0 Rev A Updates from IOC testing.	BBM Team

This is the last page of *VBECS 2.4.0 Release Notes*.