

**VERMONT LEGAL AID, INC.**  
**OFFICE OF THE HEALTH CARE ADVOCATE**

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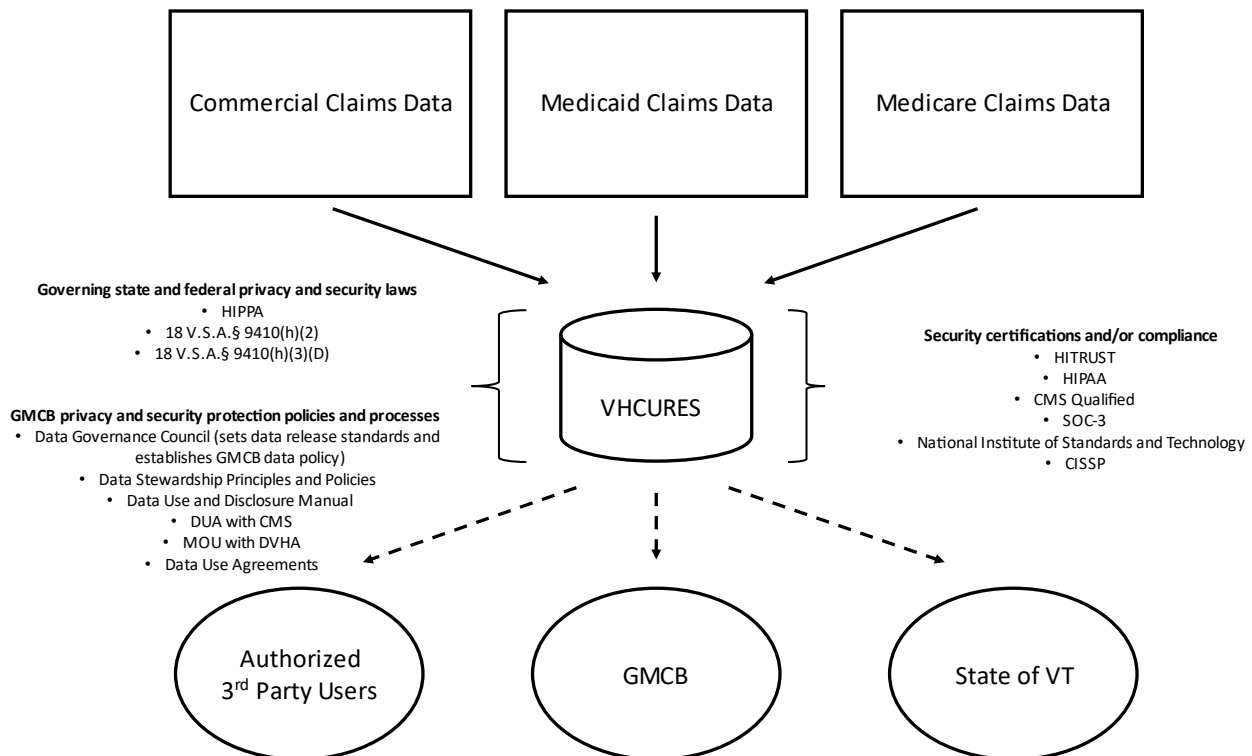
**Position:**

- The Office of the Health Care Advocate (HCA) supports the data provisions of S.285 Sec. 5.

**What is VHCURES:**

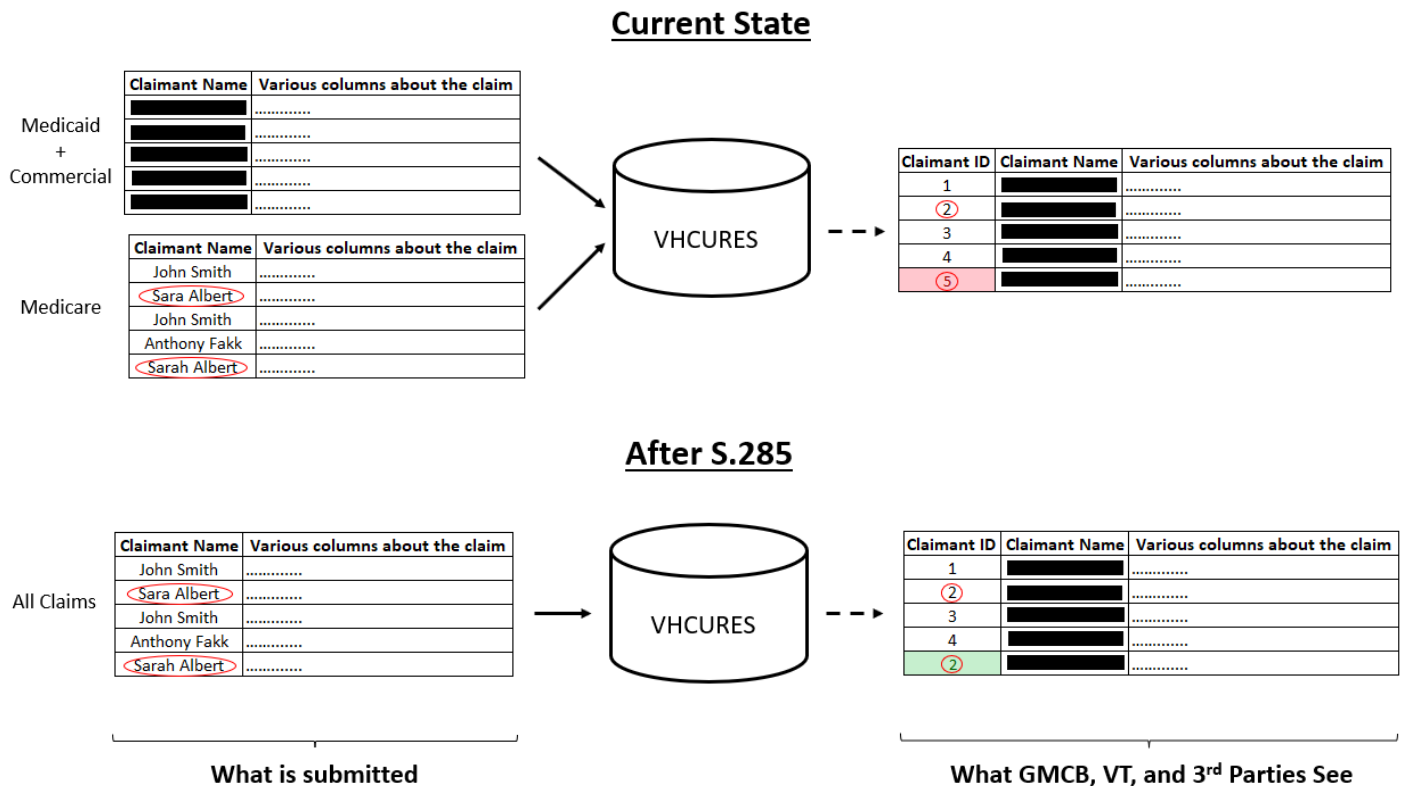
- VHCURES is a research database. It is NOT a data set used by clinicians while providing medical care.

**How does VHCURES work?**



*Questions? Contact Mike Fisher at [mfisher@vtlegalaid.org](mailto:mfisher@vtlegalaid.org) or Eric Schultbeis at [eschultbeis@vtlegalaid.org](mailto:eschultbeis@vtlegalaid.org).  
The Office of the Health Care Advocate is a special project of Vermont Legal Aid.*

## How data come into and out of VHCURES?



- S.285 Sec. 5. makes linking claims to a specific person more accurate.
  - Vermont was one of the leaders in creating databases like VHCURES. Many states have since followed Vermont’s lead.
  - Because Vermont led the pack, it didn’t know how data submission standards would cause problems.
  - Other states followed Vermont but when they created VHCURES-like all-payer claims databases they fixed the problem that S.285 Sec. 5 addresses.
  - Currently, linking claims, for example, where a person’s name is spelled differently is a problem – Sara Albert is assigned Claimant ID 2 and Sarah Albert is assigned Claimant ID 5 even though they are the same person.
  - S.285 Sec. 5 allows linking claims to the right person – Sara Albert and Sarah Albert both are assigned Claimant ID 2 since it is the same person.
  - S.285 Sec. 5 also would allow the integration the clinical records of Sarah Albert with her Claimant ID.
  - S.285 Sec. 5 does NOT change the fact that a person’s identifying information always remains concealed to VHCURES users. Research using VHCURES will be more accurate and able to look at more topics relevant to health care reform.
- S.285 Sec. 5 changes how **payors submit** data to VHCURES.
- S.285 Sec. 5 changes what other data VHCURES can link to a Claimant ID.
- **It does not change the data that the GMCB, the state, or authorized 3<sup>rd</sup> parties see.**