Background: All VPR linkage studies proceed in two phases. In Phase I, registries perform the linkage and upload aggregate match count reports to the VPR-CLS and retain the Match*Pro results fie for future use. Researchers then determine which registries they want to include in their Phase II request for release of individual-level data on the matched cases identified during the Phase I linkage. The researchers then proceed with the necessary application process to request release of the individual-level data. Once the study is approved, registries DO NOT need to rerun the linkage, they simply use the results from the Phase I linkage and have Match*Pro produce a file to be sent directly to the researcher. Below are the instructions for creating that file.

- 1. The majority of VPR linkages will not entail manual review, although many registries voluntarily performed this review during Phase I to assess linkage performance. If specifically requested by the researcher, please complete the manual review process before creating the file to be sent.
- 2. To export information on matched cases, open the linkage results file (.mpr). Press the "Apply Filter" button. The "Apply Filter" dialog will appear.



3. Select "System: Linkage Match Status is equal to Match" from the favorites dropdown, press the Load button next to the dropdown, then press the OK button. The uncertain and non-matched pairs will be removed from the results screen, leaving only the high-quality matches.

🤣 Apply Filter	×
Favorites System: Linkage Match Status is equal to Match.	✓ ✓ Load × Delete
Filter Design	2 / 100 Items 0 Item(s) Copied
AND V Negate Group	+ Rule 🕼 Copy 🛍 Paste
Linkage Match Status is equal to Match.	.≁ 🖻 ×
O Add to Favorites	Save to File 🤣 Load from File
	OK Cancel

4. Press the "Export Data" button. The "Export Data" dialog will appear.



5. Provide the locations of where you would like to write the CSV file and the SAS program that will be used by the researcher to read in the contents of the CSV file.

S Export Data	×
Export Linked Data to CSV Export Records from File 1 or File 2	
Specify the CSV file or SAS code location(s). CSV File Destination SAS Code Destination	× ×
Select the fields to export using the checkboxes below. Q Search	Save Load
Field Name Addr_DX_State Date_of_Birth Name_First Name_Last Name_Maiden Patient_ID_Number Recoded ID Sex Social_Security_Number Telephone	Data Source ▲ Record 2 Record 2
0 selected Toggle Linkage Fields Toggle Record 1 Fields Tog	gle Record 2 Fields
Task is Awaiting Execution.	OK Cancel

- 6. To select the fields to export, download the Match*Pro Linkage Export File from the VPR Documents Tab for the study of interest and load it into Match*Pro. This file contains the fields being requested and will automatically mark them as selected for output from Match*Pro. For linkages using Match*Pro V2.0 or higher this will be a .mple file. For linkages using versions of Match*Pro prior to V2.0 this will be a .txt file. When loading into Match*Pro, use the following steps:
 - a. Press the Load button. A file selection dialog will appear.
 - b. Browse to the location of the .mple or .txt file of requested fields, select the file, then press the "Open" button on the dialog.
 - c. After you do this, several of the fields in the table will be checked. If needed, de-select any fields your registry does not wish to send to the researcher.
 - d. Press the "OK" button to generate the CSV and SAS files.

pecify the CSV file or SAS code location(s).	3
SV File Destination	×
AS Code Destination	¥
AS Code Destination	···· ^
	0
elect the fields to export using the checkboxes below.	0
Search	× Save Load
Field Name	Data Source 🔺
Addr DX State	Record 2
Date_of_Birth	Record 2
Name_First	Record 2
Name_Last	Record 2
Name_Maiden	Record 2
Name_Middle	Record 2
Patient_ID_Number	Record 2
Recoded ID	Record 2
Sex Sex	Record 2
Social_Security_Number	Record 2
Telephone Telephone	Record 2 👻

7. Remove any cases that are non-releasable according to your registry policy. Send both the CSV and SAS program to the requestor through a secure mechanism (study contact and file transmission information is listed in the TIRA, Section IV, #8-9) and provide a summary any non-releasable cases. That's it!