



VDA WEEKLY E-MAILING

July 7, 2015

Table of Contents

[ACL News & Information](#)

[NASUAD Weekly Update](#)

[ACL Update: ACL Funds Resource Center for People Living with Paralysis](#)

[Share Photos of Your Events Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the OAA](#)

[Virginian-Pilot Online Article](#)

[NASUAD Friday Updates](#)

[VTrans 2040 Multimodal Transportation Plan \(VMTP\) Regional Forums](#)

ACL News & Information

Here is a link to news & information from the Administration for Community Living (ACL):

<http://www.acl.gov/NewsRoom/NewsInfo/Index.aspx>

NASUAD Weekly Update

Here is a link to the weekly update from NASUAD:

<http://www.nasuad.org/newsroom/friday-update>

Note: The web links in this document may change over time. DARS-VDA does not attempt to refresh the links once the week has passed. However, this document is maintained on the web for a period of time as a reference. Some links may require registration.

1610 Forest Avenue • Suite 100 • Henrico, VA 23229
Office 804.662.9333 • Toll free 800.552.3402 • TTY users dial 711 • Fax 804.662.9354



UPDATES

July 1, 2015

ACL Funds Resource Center for People Living with Paralysis

Approximately a quarter of a million Americans live with spinal cord injuries and an additional 4 to 5 million people in this country are affected by paralysis of the extremities. For many, obtaining reliable information about paralysis, and gaining access to opportunities that increase independence, self-confidence, and the ability to participate in their communities can be a challenge. To help address this issue, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) recently awarded a three-year grant to the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation to sponsor the Paralysis Resource Center (PRC).

The mission of the PRC is to provide comprehensive information and resources for people living with paralysis and their families. Resources for spinal cord injury, paralysis and mobility-related disabilities are available through information and referral by phone and email, in multiple languages including English and Spanish. The PRC also offers a variety of services and programs such as a national peer and family support mentoring program; a military and veterans program; multicultural outreach services; a free



lending library; quality of life grants; and a national website.

More information is available on the [Paralysis Resources Center](#) program at ACL. Resources for people living with paralysis can be found on the [Reeve Foundation website](#).

Share Photos of Your Events Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the OAA

Tim Catherman, Director Aging Operations

The DARS Communications Team would welcome your photos of events celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act for posting to the DARS Facebook page. If you are holding an event, celebration or simply a webcast viewing, please send photos and information about the event to Communications Director A.J. Hostetler at aj.hostetler@dars.virginia.gov.

Additionally, if you plan to post photos or event information to your agency's Facebook page, please let A.J. know so that DARS can "share" via Facebook. Visit the DARS Facebook page at www.facebook.com/vadars.

Virginian-Pilot Online Article

Tim Catherman, Director Aging Operations

PilotOnline.com

Article available at: <http://hamptonroads.com/2015/06/new-law-hospitals-must-disclose-changes-coverage-status>

New law: Hospitals must disclose coverage status of patients

By [Elizabeth Simpson](#)

The Virginian-Pilot

© July 1, 2015

Starting today, Virginia hospitals will need to tell patients who spend time on "observation status" they are considered outpatients, meaning their insurance might not provide the same coverage as if they were admitted to the hospital.



The law was passed during the most recent General Assembly session and is similar to measures taken in Maryland, Connecticut and New York.

At issue is a designation intended to give doctors and health care providers time to decide whether a patient needs to be admitted or discharged.

A typical example would be someone who came to the emergency room with chest pains or shortness of breath and needed evaluation to see whether they were having a heart attack. It also could include people who come to a hospital for outpatient procedures and develop a complication that requires they stay longer than expected.

Observation status gives health care providers time to determine what is going on. If hospitals admit someone who is later determined to not have needed a hospital stay, insurance reimbursements can be cut or denied, or an audit ordered.

The number of patients on observation status has been trending upward during the past decade. Typically, an observation wouldn't last more than 24 to 48 hours, but there have been instances across the country in which patients were on observation status for longer.

Some patients were socked with unexpected bills after spending time in a regular hospital bed. Rather than a co-payment for a hospital stay, they ponied up co-pays for lab work, medications and other treatment while on observation status.

It is particularly worrisome for people on Medicare, the federal health insurance for people 65 and older, because if they are transferred from a hospital to a nursing home after being on observation status, rather than an inpatient stay, the insurance will not cover the rehab stay.

Virginia legislators passed the law to better educate patients by requiring hospitals to provide written and verbal explanations about the difference between observation status and an inpatient stay and the fact that insurance coverage will differ accordingly.

Teresa Gonzalvo, vice president of care coordination for Sentara hospitals, said patients covered by Medicare were already being given brochures explaining the difference. Now all observation status patients will receive the information about the status and insurance implications.

Erik Bodin, director of licensure and certification for the Virginia Department of Health, said the law has not been crafted into regulation, but it is clear enough that hospitals should comply starting today.

The Center for Medicare Advocacy is calling for all states to pass such laws and has developed guides to help patients understand observation status and insurance coverage at: tinyurl.com/StatusLaws.

Elizabeth Simpson, 757-222-5003, elizabeth.simpson@pilotonline.com



NASUAD Friday Updates

Cecily Slasor, Administrative Assistant

FRIDAY UPDATES

NASUAD

July 3, 2015

In This Issue

***NASUAD Office Closed for
Holiday**

***NASUAD: Registration
Open for HCBS Conference**

***Friday Updates Archive**



Check out NASUAD iQ!



From NASUAD

Happy Fourth of July!

The NASUAD office is closed Friday, July 3rd and Monday, July 6th in observance of Independence Day. The Friday Update will be published next Friday, July 10.

Register Now for the HCBS Conference

Don't forget to register for the [National Home and Community Based Services \(HCBS\) Conference](#) held in Washington, DC, August 31 through September 3.



[Like NASUAD on Facebook](#)



[Follow NASUAD on
LinkedIn](#)



[Follow NASUAD on Twitter](#)



The Conference features a full day of intensives, included in the cost of the conference. In addition, a reception and dance party will take place on Tuesday, September 1, to celebrate the 50 year anniversaries of the Medicare, Medicaid, and the Older Americans Act.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the conference and register.

Friday Update Archive

Did you miss a previous issue?
Check out [past Friday Updates](#).

Subscribe

[Click here](#) to subscribe to Friday Update or other NASUAD news updates.



DIVISION FOR THE AGING
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

VTrans 2040 Multimodal Transportation Plan (VMTP) Regional Forums

Tim Catherman, on behalf of Marcia DuBois, Livable Communities Coordinator/DARS

Please see the attached flyer on the VTrans2040 Multimodal Transportation Plan Regional Forums to be held July 22, 23, 28 and 29.

"VTrans2040 is a vital project for clarifying Virginia's transportation vision, goals, and objectives, and identifying the guiding principles and investments in infrastructure and services that will carry Virginia's transportation system forward for the future."

For additional information, please contact:

Marcia DuBois
Livable Communities Coordinator
Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
8004 Franklin Farms Drive
Henrico, VA 23229
(804) 662-7083 Office
(800) 552-5019 Toll-Free
(804) 305-9611 Cell
(800) 464-9950 TTY
(804) 662-7663 Fax
Marcia.DuBois@dars.virginia.gov

Virginia's Blueprint for Livable Communities

<http://www.vadars.org/vblc/>

VTrans2040

Multimodal Transportation Plan

Regional Forum

Please join us for an opportunity to help shape the VMTP Transportation Needs Assessment under VTrans2040, Virginia's long-range statewide multimodal transportation plan. The event, held on July 22, 23, 28, and 29 (schedule, locations, and dates below), will be a series of facilitated forum workshops and offer opportunities for discussion between MPO/PDC/locality staff and transportation planner and providers. More information about the events is provided below.

VTrans2040 is a vital project for clarifying Virginia's transportation vision, goals, and objectives, and identifying the guiding principles and investments in infrastructure and services that will carry Virginia's transportation system forward for the future. The Plan includes two major pieces – the VTrans2040 Vision and the VTrans2040 Multimodal Transportation Plan (VMTP). The Virginia Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) has been developing the VMTP, in particular the Transportation Needs Assessment. This Needs Assessment takes on added importance as many of you know. As a result of House Bill 2, only projects that help address a need identified in the statewide transportation plan will be considered for funding under the statewide prioritization process.

Stakeholder engagement is critical to the success of this process. As part of the Needs Assessment for Regional Networks, OIPI and its consultant team have already been working one-on-one with 15 regions in the Commonwealth through the MPOs in each region, and the purpose of this forum is to bring several regions together to continue the engagement process and get critical input from each region, as well as share information and updates relevant to the Transportation Needs Assessment. In addition, this forum will also include updates on the two other pieces of the Transportation Needs Assessment that deal with Corridors of Statewide Significance (CoSS) and Urban Development Areas (UDAs). Input will be sought on all of these critical aspects of the Transportation Needs Assessment.

This forum is an important opportunity to be involved and help shape the Transportation Needs Assessment and the overall VMTP. We invite you to join us and share your ideas.

The forums will be run as a series of events that bring together several regions at once. Breakout groups will be facilitated to work through a series of interactive exercise with each region, as well as a plenary presentation that includes all regions together. The overall schedule of dates and locations for the various regional forums is as follows – **please plan to attend the relevant forum in your region:**

FORUM 1 – July 22, 2015

Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center

6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg, VA 23185

Including representatives from the following regions:

Richmond, Tri-Cities & Hampton Roads

The meeting will take place on July 22, 2015 from 1 - 4pm

FORUM 2 – July 23, 2015

Lynchburg Government Center IT Building

3550 Young Place, Lynchburg, VA 24501

Including representatives from the following regions:

Charlottesville, Lynchburg & Danville

The meeting will take place on July 23, 2015 from 1 - 4pm

FORUM 3 – July 23, 2015

Lucy Simms Education Center

620 Simms Avenue, Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Including representatives from the following regions:

Winchester, Harrisonburg & Waynesboro/Staunton

The meeting will take place on July 23, 2015 from 1 - 4pm

FORUM 4 – July 28, 2015

Wytheville Community College (Galax Bldg.)

1000 E Main Street, Wytheville, VA 22802

Including representatives from the following regions:

Roanoke, Blacksburg/Christiansburg, Bristol & Kingsport

The meeting will take place on July 28, 2015 from 1 - 4pm

Campus Map



FORUM 5 – July 29, 2015

VDOT Northern Virginia District Office

4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030

Including representatives from the following regions:

Northern Virginia & Fredericksburg

The meeting will take place on July 29, 2015 from 1 - 4pm

To learn more about VTrans2040, please visit our website - <http://www.vtrans.org/Vtrans2040.asp>.

You can also find a draft of the VTrans2040 Vision Plan, previous versions of VTrans and more information about the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment at www.vtrans.org.

Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment