

**REPORT OF THE VIRGINIA  
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH**

**Virginia All-Payer Claims  
Database - Progress Report from  
the Virginia Department of  
Health  
(HB 343, 2012/SB 135, 2012)**

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



**HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 22**

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
RICHMOND  
2012**



## **Virginia All-Payer Claims Database**

### **Progress Report from the Virginia Department of Health**

#### **Background**

During the 2012 General Assembly session, legislation (HB343/SB135) was enacted to establish an All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) for Virginia. Participation in the APCD is voluntary. The purpose of the APCD is to “facilitate data-driven, evidence-based improvements in access, quality, and cost of health care and to promote and improve the public health through the understanding of health care expenditure patterns and operation and performance of the health care system.”

The legislation directed that all activities associated with development and implementation of the APCD would be conducted under the leadership, and subject to the ultimate approval, of the State Health Commissioner and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). The Commissioner is required to appoint an APCD Advisory Committee, in order to provide assistance with the formation and operation of the APCD.

The legislation provides that the State Health Commissioner, in cooperation with the Bureau of Insurance, may collect paid claims data for covered benefits, pursuant to data submission and use agreements from entities electing to participate as data suppliers. Such entities may include issuers of individual or group accident and sickness insurance policies; corporations providing individual or group accident and sickness subscription contracts; health maintenance organizations providing a health care plan for health care services; and third-party administrators and any other entities that receive or collect charges, contributions, or premiums for, or adjust or settle health care claims for Virginia residents.

The legislation directed VDH to enter into a contract with a non-profit vendor to create the APCD. VDH has an existing contract with Virginia Health Information (VHI); changes were made to the existing contract to include the creation of the APCD. Other key stakeholders included in this project are the Virginia Association of Health Plans (VAHP) and the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA).

A key discussion point during the 2012 Session was the funding of the APCD. VAHP, VHHA and VHI agreed as participation in the APCD is voluntary, they would contribute the initial funding for development and implementation of the APCD. The entities agreed the

VAHP will contribute 40%, VHHA will contribute 40% and VHI will contribute 20% of the funding for the initial start-up costs.

Additional requirements from the legislation include the creation of standard data submission and use agreements with each entity that submits claims data to the APCD and with each entity that subscribes to data products and reports. Finally, HB343/SB135 requires that the “Commissioner of Health report to the Governor and the General Assembly on whether the entities named in the code have executed agreements to submit claims data representing at least 75 percent of privately insured individuals and individuals covered under self-funded group health plans in the Commonwealth”.

### **All-Payer Claims Database Participation Agreement**

The Founders/Participation Agreement establishes a funding stream and a commitment from the key stakeholders submitting data. On November 28, 2012, VAHP, VHHA and VHI signed this document with the approval of VDH.

### **All-Payer Claims Database Data Submission and Use Agreements**

The key stakeholders involved in creation of the APCD have worked collaboratively during 2012 to draft and approve data usage and submission documents. All entities submitting paid claims data are required to sign the data submission agreements and those requesting information or reports from the database are required to sign the data use agreements. Data submission agreements have been distributed to VAHP, VHHA and VHI, and will be signed no later than December 14, 2012. The execution of these agreements represents commitments on the part of submitters of paid claims data covering at least 75 percent of privately insured individuals and individuals covered under self-funded group health plans.

### **Next Steps**

Several additional activities associated with development and implementation of the APCD are scheduled to occur during 2013. The APCD Committee has been selected and will begin meeting in March 2013. VHI will begin work with submitters of paid claims data to standardize the data entry fields and cleanse the data for submission.

Those entities interested in using the information/reports produced from the APCD will be required to sign data use agreements to ensure the data will be used appropriately.

In addition, VHI and VDH will begin the procurement process in Spring, 2013 to secure a vendor to perform analytics, aggregate data and produce reports and information to be distributed to those who have signed the data use agreement. At that time, the data cleansing and accuracy process will commence with all data submitters. It is currently expected that APCD reports and information will be available for dissemination in early 2014.

