



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

CHADWICK S. DOTSON  
DIRECTOR

*Department of Corrections*

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Senator Janet D. Howell, Co-Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
P.O. Box 2608  
Reston, VA 20195

Senator George L. Barker, Co-Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
P.O. Box 396  
Richmond, VA 23218

Delegate Barry D. Knight, Chair  
House of Appropriations Committee  
1852 Mill Landing Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23457

Dear Senators Howell, Barker, and Delegate Knight:

Pursuant to 2022 Special Sessions I Virginia Acts of Assembly Chapter 2, please accept this report as an update on the progress and outcomes of the previously authorized university medical pilots.

The 2019 Virginia Acts of Assembly Chapter 845, Item 390 (R), required the Director of the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) to convene a workgroup to be co-chaired by the chief executive officer of the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System (VCUHS), and the executive vice president for health affairs at the University of Virginia Health System (UVA Health) to develop a pilot partnership to provide comprehensive medical care for inmates in at least one state correctional facility. In accordance with the directive, VADOC convened a workgroup that developed a proposal for implementing two pilot projects. The projects included a pilot at the State Farm Correctional Complex and a pilot at the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women (FCCW).<sup>1,2</sup> VCUHS proposed establishing an onsite orthopedic clinic at the State Farm Complex, while UVA proposed expanding 340B access to hepatitis C treatment at FCCW via telemedicine. Additionally, both university hospital systems participate in the federal 340B drug program

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<sup>1</sup> The scope of the initial university pilot was limited due to the complexity of providing comprehensive medical services in correctional settings. Over time, it was anticipated that the hospital systems would assume responsibility for all medical services at each site.

<sup>2</sup> State Farm Correctional Complex was selected because it served as a hub of VADOC health care services and its location allowed VCUHS to easily organize providers and clinics onsite. Fluvanna Correctional Center was chosen as a site for UVA Health because of the high medical acuity and facility location.

and included provisions in their proposals allowing VADOC to purchase certain high-cost outpatient medications through them at substantial discounts.<sup>3</sup> In November 2019, VADOC submitted the proposal to the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees along with a request for funding to implement it. Although the 2020 General Assembly approved the request, the funding was unallotted due to the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and was never restored.

The 2021 Virginia Acts of Assembly, Chapter 552, Item 401, subsection E directs VADOC to continue the workgroup and report annually on the progress and outcomes of the university pilot to the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees no later than October 15th of each year.

The pilots, as proposed, were not funded and therefore, not implemented. Both universities reported having additional resource requirements in order to move forward with pilot projects. In lieu of that activity, VADOC and the university hospital systems do continue to work together in collaboration for many inmate health care projects.


Both universities continue work to expand their treatment capacity for inmates with Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) infection. VCUH actively sees inmates with HCV and higher medical needs for treatment and cure. UVAH has expanded treatment capacity for inmates soon to be releasing from incarceration with existing HCV infection. The UVAH partnership helps ensure releasing inmates are connected to community resources for HCV treatment prior to the individual leaving a VADOC facility.

Additionally, VADOC has been actively expanding the Department's telemedicine capacity since the COVID pandemic. Both hospital systems are actively involved in the collaboration to expand their telemedicine capabilities to benefit DOC inmates. Telemedicine expansion will continue between all three partners and is critical for expanding health care access to all VADOC inmates moving forward.

The agency has a strong working relationship with the hospital systems that has proven to be mutually beneficial over the years, particularly during the pandemic, and all three partners anticipate continuing the relationship well into the future.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this information.

Sincerely,



Chadwick Dotson  
Director

cc: The Honorable Terrance C. Cole  
Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

The Honorable Dr. Michael Rao  
President, VCU and VCU Health Systems

The Honorable James E. Ryan  
President, UVA and UVA Health

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<sup>3</sup> 340B pricing is a federal program that requires drug companies to provide outpatient medications to eligible health care organizations at substantially reduced prices. By serving vulnerable, low-income and uninsured patient populations, the university hospital systems are eligible to receive 340B pricing.