

Building a Healthier Virginia Virginia Department of Health

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has launched its “Building a Healthier Virginia” initiative to better understand and assist primary care practices in the management of diabetes and hypertension and increase screening for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers. To facilitate this initiative, VDH has contracted with Health Management Associates (HMA). HMA’s team includes the University of Virginia School of Medicine, Department of Public Health Sciences (UVA) and the Knowledge Advisory Group (KAG). Building a Healthier Virginia will advance VDH’s goal of improving the health of all Virginians. It is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Virginia Academy of Family Practice, the Medical Society of Virginia, and the Virginia Health and Hospital Association support VDH in its efforts in the Building a Healthier Virginia initiative.

What is this project about?

- “Building a Healthier Virginia” will obtain information on practice capabilities and facilitate changes in medical practice to benefit both physicians and patients.
- It will operate in the **Portsmouth, Crater, West Piedmont, Prince William, and Lord Fairfax** Local Health Districts (LHDs).
- Its goal is *to understand physician capabilities and challenges* in: reporting quality measures, managing diabetes and hypertension care, and increasing breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening activity.
- UVA will distribute surveys to primary care practices regarding their current capabilities and challenges. KAG will conduct focus groups to elicit other practice information.
- HMA will provide assistance to practices to enable them to report on quality and develop team-based care and medical homes, capabilities essential to controlling chronic disease and empowering medical practices to receive performance-based revenue from insurance companies, Medicare, and Medicaid.

What do I need to do?

The usefulness of the surveys and focus groups to provide meaningful assistance to medical practices depends on your participation. If you practice in the designated LHDs, please:

- Participate in a “Building a Healthier Virginia” focus group conducted by the Knowledge Advisory Group to discuss your capabilities and needs, most likely in August or September.
- Respond to the “Building a Healthier Virginia” survey from UVA expected in November.
- Take advantage of the free technical assistance offered by HMA beginning Spring 2016 to improve your capabilities, enhance your medical practice, and receive performance-based revenue incentives

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