

Administrative Codes and Registers

Minneapolis, MN

July 18, 2009

Virginia's Regulation
Information System (RIS)
(implemented July 2007)

How could we provide better data for the public?

- By creating a current online administrative code
- By improving the presentation of tables and images in the online administrative code
- By creating a system compatible with the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website

The players

Legislative Branch:

- Virginia Code Commission
- Division of Legislative Automated Systems

Executive Branch:

- Department of Planning and Budget
- Agencies of the Commonwealth

Two Branches of Government, One Solution – What Could Go Wrong?

■ Different ...

- Databases: DB2 & MS SQL
- Entry points in the process
- Users/agency requirements
- Legacy table/data structures
- Web server software (Blue Dragon vs. IIS)
- Server side scripting tools (Cold Fusion vs. ASP.NET)
- Interface requirements

What is RIS?

- A web-based application that allows agencies to
 - Create regulatory text
 - Submit the text to Town Hall for review
 - Submit projects electronically to the Registrar for publication

What is RIS?

- A web-based application that allows the Registrar's Office to
 - Prepare and publish the Register
 - Maintain the Virginia Administrative Code online

Core Functions

- Daily updates to VAC on the Internet
- Generate Virginia Register
- Centralized workspace for agencies to draft regulations
- Flexible and numerous report options
- Automatically update Town Hall

RIS Advantages

- Accessible with Word and a browser from anywhere
- Improved appearance of tables and other images on the online VAC
- Agencies can link to the official regulations rather than maintaining their own databases

12VAC30-20-160. Copayments and deductibles for medically needy and QMBs for services other than under 42 CFR 447.53.

A. The following charges are imposed on the medically needy and Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries for services other than those provided under 42 CFR 447.53.

†

	Type	Charge	

Service*	Deduct	Coins_Copay	Amount and Basis for Determination

-			
Inpatient	\$100.00	-0-	State's average daily payment of \$594
Hospital			is used as basis.

-			
Outpatient	-0-	-0-	\$3.00 State's average payment of \$136 is
Hospital			used as basis.
Clinic			

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A. The following charges are imposed on the medically needy and Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries for services other than those provided under 42 CFR 447.53.

Service*	Type Charge			Amount and Basis for Determination
	Deduct	Coins	Copay	
Inpatient Hospital	\$100.00	-0-	-0-	State's average daily payment of \$594 is used as basis.
Outpatient Hospital Clinic	-0-	-0-	\$3.00	State's average payment of \$136 is used as basis.
Clinic Visit	-0-	-0-	\$1.00	State's average payment of \$29 is used as basis.
Physician Office Visit	-0-	-0-	\$1.00	State's average payment of \$23 is used as basis.
Eye Examination	-0-	-0-	\$1.00	State's payment of \$30 is used as basis.
Prescriptions:				
--Generic	-0-	-0-	\$1.00	State's average per generic script of \$25 is used as payment basis.
--Brand Name	-0-	-0-	\$3.00	State's average per brand-name script of \$97 is used as payment basis.
Home Health Visit	-0-	-0-	\$3.00	State's average payment of \$56 is used as basis.
Other Physician Services	-0-	-0-	\$3.00	State's average payment of \$56 is used as basis.
Rehab Therapy Services (PT, OT, Sp/Lang.)	-0-	-0-	\$3.00	State's average payment \$78 is used as basis.

*NOTE: The applicability of copays to emergency services is discussed further in this section.

What About Editing?

- Agencies are allowed to edit section code using their traditional editor, MS Word
- Via an MS Word macro, the contents of the edited documents are
 - Checked for correct styles
 - Saved to html
 - Updated back to the central RIS database via a standard upload routine (HTTP Post)

Using MS Word

■ Advantages

- Familiarity, ease of use
- Reliable output, third-party supported
- Universally distributed at state agencies in VA

■ Disadvantages

- Client distribution of macros/templates
- Client security issues at state agencies
- OS and Office Upgrades

Implementation Strategy

- Announced Town Hall upgrades and new Regulation Information System
- Trained 250 users in first seven months
- Migrated 300 current projects

Response

- “At first, when I heard about the new system, I felt like my hair was on fire – now I’m on board and see this as a huge advantage for our agency.” – Doug Harris, VDH
- “Now we won’t have to wonder whose hard drive has the latest version of our amendments.” – Training session attendee
- “Love it!” – Carrie Eddy, regulation writer

What's next

- Phase III is underway
- Moving toward electronic only submission to Registrar
- Public access ideas, including
 - RSS feeds for VAC updates
 - Archives (versioning)
 - Regulation history available online