Virginia MIRC <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

Please support expansion of Medicaid
1 message

Sandy Chung   Mo   n, Oct 14, 2013 at 11:02 PM
To: Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission <vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

Dear Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission,

Please support the expansion of Medicaid. Currently many of those who are uninsured are seeking expensive care in emergency rooms for simple issues such as upper respiratory infections, sore throats, or rashes. As a result, that unreimbursed high cost of care gets offset by higher charges to insured patients and their insurance companies.

These patients could be more efficiently treated in a significantly less costly manner if they had Medicaid and were able to go to an outpatient care provider. Even if they did not (because of the lack of Medicaid providers), at least the hospital would receive some reimbursement for delivering the same care they are giving for now.

Many uninsured are also not seeking care until they are very ill. What could have treated as a Medicaid outpatient as bronchitis becomes a severe case of pneumonia that requires an ambulance ride, an ER visit, labs, Xrays, and hospitalization... simply because the patient did not have insurance and did not go to see someone early in the disease process.

While it is true that Medicaid needs some reform, it does not make sense to turn down the Federal Match while trying to implement some of these changes.

Please support Medicaid expansion.

Sincerely,

Sandy Chung, MD

Sterling, VA