



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

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RICHMOND, VA 23218

September 2, 2010

KAREN REMLEY, MD, MBA, FAAP
STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

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1-800-828-1120

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Attached you will find a guidance document that represents years of collaboration between the private and public healthcare sectors – “Guidance for Hospitals Boarding Patients Admitted through the Emergency Department When an Inpatient Bed is not Immediately Available.” I wanted to share this with you and request that you forward on to your constituents who may find this helpful.

The guidelines outlined in this document are intended to assist hospitals who wish to put in place policies and procedures for boarding admitted patients, especially those admitted through the Emergency Department. This can be very difficult at times when healthcare facilities are experiencing surge situations resulting from events such as the peak of flu season or natural disasters.

As this resource can be of tremendous value to establishing policies that enhance patient care, I also find the lessons learned from the creation of this document to be of significance in terms of the collaboration and communication among key stakeholders. Let us all be reminded of the effectiveness of developing productive connections and relationships across all the pieces that make up Virginia’s healthcare system, especially in context of entering the restructuring phase of implementing the Virginia Health Reform Initiative.

Thank you so much for all of the hard work you invest in the safety and security of all Virginians. And a special thanks to those associations that partnered with the Virginia Department of Health to develop this resource: Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, Virginia College of Emergency Physicians, Medical Society of Virginia and Virginia Nurses Association.

This document and other useful resources for clinicians can be downloaded by visiting <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/clinicians/index.htm>. For questions, concerns or comments regarding the content of this Hospital Boarding Guidance Document, please contact Chris Durrer, Director of the Office of Licensure and Certification, at chris.durrer@vdh.virginia.gov or by calling 804-367-2109.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Remley".

Karen Remley, M.D., M.B.A., F.A.A.P.
State Health Commissioner