



winter/spring 2022 newsletter

A slightly delayed Happy New Year to you! We hope your 2022 has gotten off to a great start. Thanks for all you do to take care of Virginians. -The ACORN Team

Payers in Virginia want to invest in and better support primary care. The state is discussing increasing Medicaid payment to primary care by up to \$150 million per year and other payers would follow suit. We need your input on how to do this. ***Your answers will help improve payment and policy in Virginia for all primary care.***

Responses will be shared with Virginia's legislature, the Department of Medical Assistance Services, and the Virginia Task Force on Primary Care.

 [Please complete for your practice.](#)

Press

[Addressing Systemic Racism Through Clinical Preventive Service Recommendations From the US Preventive Services Task Force](#)

Want to share something with the Virginia primary care practice-based research network?

Maybe you're fielding a survey, maybe you need to get the word out, etc. This newsletter goes to over 700 clinicians, office managers, administrators, and leaders interested in research across the state. Get in touch with us at acorn@vcu.edu and we'll include your message in a future communication.

A first survey of Virginia nursing home clinicians regarding dementia management during the COVID pandemic was done November 2021.

Preliminary analysis appears to show:

- All dementia symptoms were worse, especially depression, anxiety, and irritability/aggression/disinhibition
- Medications were used more for symptoms: notably antidepressants, antipsychotics, and mood stabilizers
- Non-drug management was also needed much more, but much harder b/o lack of staffing/families
- Irreversible decrease in functionality was seen in patients

Important details and further information about the study can be found at the [Green Center blog page](#).

PLEASE TAKE THE NEW 3-4 MINUTE SURVEY, BASED ON RESULTS FROM THE FIRST ONE, NOW AVAILABLE FOR VIRGINIA NURSING HOME CLINICIANS!

Please also pass this information on to any Virginia nursing home colleagues: physicians, NPs, and PAs. **The survey end date is 3/28/2022.**