



Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget

12 VAC 5-90-185 – Regulations for Disease Reporting and Control Department of Health

June 23, 2001

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 9-6.14:7.1.G of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 25 (98). Section 9-6.14:7.1.G requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. The analysis presented below represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.

Summary of the Proposed Regulation

Legislation passed by the 2000 General Assembly required mandatory notification of patients diagnosed after January 1, 2001 that their identifying information has been included in the Virginia Cancer Registry (VCR). The proposed amendment to the cancer reporting section of the *Regulations for Disease Reporting and Control* explains the process VDH will use for the notification of patients reported to the statewide cancer registry. Notification will be made within 30 days of receipt of the patient's case record and will include the purpose, objectives, reporting requirements, confidentiality policies, and procedures of the VCR and a copy of the Virginia Privacy Protection Act.

Estimated Economic Impact

Virginia law requires hospitals, clinics, pathology laboratories, and physicians that diagnose or treat cancer to report demographic, diagnostic, and treatment information on patients diagnosed with certain cancers to the VCR. The registry also receives information for Virginia

residents who receive cancer care in neighboring states through special interstate agreements with their state cancer registries. This information is used to conduct epidemiological analyses and produce statistical reports of the incidence, prevalence, survival, and risk factors associated with the occurrence of cancer in Virginia. These reports are used to promote cancer prevention, early detection, and successful treatments for cancer.

The cost of implementing the mandated patient notification process is estimated to be between \$50,000 to \$60,000 per year (\$2 per case, approximately 28,000 new cases added to the registry each year). General funds have been provided for approximately one-half that amount, and VDH intends to absorb the remaining cost. In addition, this will require staff time to be diverted away from other registry business, thereby increasing the costs of this proposal. The benefits associated with notifying patients of their inclusion in the cancer registry cannot be estimated at this time. Patients may place significant value on being aware that extensive personal health information on them has been included in the VCR and is being compiled and used for public health purposes. However, this must be weighed against the potential alarm and sadness that this notification might bring to recipients and a possible increase in public concern about how data in the registry is used and protected. Without data on how much patients will value this notification, it is not possible to determine if the benefits will outweigh the costs associated with providing it.

Businesses and Entities Affected

The proposed regulatory change will affect any patient diagnosed with cancer after January 1, 2001. There are approximately 28,000 new cases added to the registry each year.

Localities Particularly Affected

The proposed regulatory change will not uniquely affect any particular localities.

Projected Impact on Employment

The proposed regulatory change is not expected to have any impact on employment.

Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property

The proposed regulatory change is not expected to have any effects on the use and value of private property.