

Poplar Bluff

VISN 15 – Poplar Bluff – Financial Analysis

Secretary's CARES Decision

- The Poplar Bluff VAMC is a 16-bed acute facility operating at full capacity and forecasts project only marginal decline in inpatient care – 15 and 11 beds in 2012 and 2022.
- While there are limited options for contracting in the community, it is important that VA examine the potential for savings through contracting by conducting a detailed cost-effectiveness analysis.
- The analysis will assess the cost of retaining care versus contracting in the community and will also include an assessment of the impact on access.
- This cost-effectiveness analysis will examine the efficiency of providing care at the Poplar Bluff VAMC.
- The VRAH (Veterans Rural Access Hospitals) policy is approved and now VHA Directive 2004-061. VA will study the Poplar Bluff VAMC, as well as other similar facilities, to determine whether it meets the criteria for designation as a VRAH and to define the appropriate scope of practice to ensure that it meets quality standards.
- The results of the VRAH study will provide the framework for the cost-effectiveness analysis.
- In the interim, the Poplar Bluff VAMC will continue to operate in accordance with its current mission.

Specific Considerations/Requirements

The study to determine the cost effectiveness of providing care at the hospital versus contracting for care will be based upon the medical services that are designated appropriate for Poplar Bluff under the VRAH criteria. In completing the financial analysis contracting costs (if services meeting quality standards are available in the local community) will be factored into the analysis.