

Big Spring

VISN 18 – Big Spring – Healthcare Delivery Study, General Capital and Reuse Plans

Secretary's CARES Decision

- VA will proceed with a study of the feasibility of closing inpatient care and transferring inpatient services from the Big Spring VAMC to the Odessa–Midland area (60 miles away). Maintaining outpatient services was proposed because of the perceived growth in the Midland/Odessa Area.
- Part of that study will include analysis of what type of facility should be developed in the Odessa–Midland area.
- VA is now in the process of developing a “Veterans Rural Access Hospital” (VRAH) policy that will provide a detailed definition and framework for assessing the clinical and operational characteristics of small and rural facilities. The model for any facility under the Veterans Rural Access Hospital policy limits medical and surgical procedures.
- The VRAH policy will be used to determine if the Odessa–Midland area would be an appropriate location for such a facility and what the appropriate scope of practice should be based on projected demand for care.



Specific Considerations/Requirements

The study should review the demand for services that are within the scope of services for a VRAH and determine whether there is adequate demand in the Odessa-Midland area with and without the demand from the Big Spring area. If there is adequate demand for a VRAH hospital in the Odessa Midland area then a cost effectiveness analysis would be undertaken to determine if the closure of Big Spring and the opening of a VRAH facility in the Odessa Midland area is a cost effective decision. That decision should include the positive and negative impacts on access for current and projected enrollees and a General Reuse Plan with expected reuse revenues from the Big Spring campus.