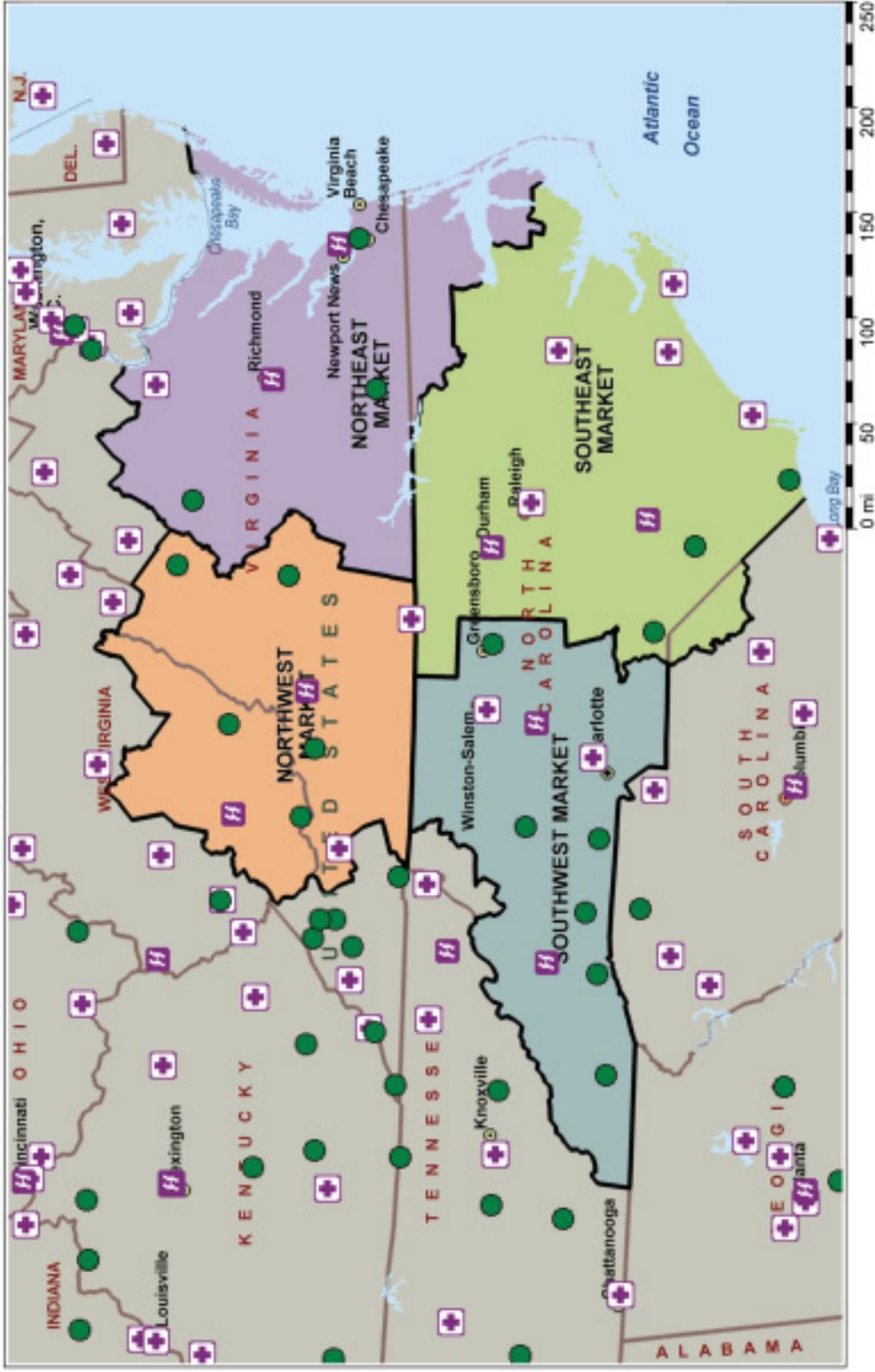


VISN 6



- Pushpins**
- VA Clinic
- VA Hospital
- Planned New CBOC
- Custom Territories**
- NORTHEAST MARKET
- NORTHWEST MARKET
- SOUTHEAST MARKET
- SOUTHWEST MARKET

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CARES DECISIONS FOR VISN 6

CARES Commission Recommendation

I Small Facility

Beckley VAMC

- 1 The Commission recommends that VA establish a clear definition and clear policy on the critical access hospital (CAH) designation prior to making a decision on the use of this designation.
- 2 The Commission does not concur with the DNCP proposal to convert Beckley into a CAH and recommends closing the acute inpatient hospital beds and contracting for acute care in the community as soon as reasonable.
- 3 The Commission recommends that Beckley retain its multi-specialty outpatient services and nursing home.

Secretary's Decision

I Small Facility

Beckley VAMC

VA is committed to providing continuity of care to Beckley area veterans and recognizes the potential impact that closure of inpatient medicine services would have. While the Commission noted the availability of care options in the community, it also recognized stakeholder concerns about the quality of care available and the distance to other VA medical centers. The Commission recommended that beds at the Beckley VAMC should be closed as soon as reasonable. After due consideration, the Secretary does not find it reasonable to consider the closure of the inpatient medicine beds at the Beckley VAMC for the foreseeable future.

The Beckley VAMC was recommended in the DNCP for mission change to a Critical Access Hospital, a concept intended to ensure the ongoing and future quality of care at small facilities by defining the appropriate scope of practice. In its report, the Commission found that VA needed a more complete definition for the CAH concept. 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. This policy will be completed in June 2004 and will be used to ensure that VA continues to provide quality and appropriate care to veterans at small and rural facilities like the Beckley VAMC.

Once the VRAH policy is approved, VA will study the Beckley 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. In the interim, the Beckley VAMC will continue to operate in accordance with its current mission.

The VRAH study will be completed by the end of the calendar year and results will be included in the VISN's FY 2005 strategic planning submission (*Reference – Critical Access Hospital: Crosscutting*).

CARES Commission Recommendation

II Extended Care ***Beckley VAMC***

- 1** The Commission concurs with the DNCP proposal to improve nursing home space at Beckley.
- 2** The Commission recommends that prior to taking any action to reconfigure or expand long-term care capacity or replace existing long-term care facilities, VA should develop a long-term care strategic plan. This plan should be based on well-articulated policies, address access to services, and integrate planning for the long-term care of the seriously mentally ill.

Secretary's Decision

II Extended Care ***Beckley VAMC***

VA will develop a long-term care strategic plan based on well-articulated policies. Until VA completes a long-term care strategic plan, it will only proceed with maintenance and life safety projects at existing long-term care facilities that are necessary to ensure the quality and safety of patient care (*Reference – Long-Term Care: Crosscutting*).

CARES Commission Recommendation**III Inpatient Care**

- 1** The Commission concurs with the DNCP proposal to increase the access for hospital care in the Southeast market by providing limited inpatient care at the Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital.
- 2** The Commission concurs with the DNCP proposal for new construction and renovation of inpatient space throughout this VISN but notes that converting current outpatient space into inpatient wards will increase current deficits in outpatient space.

Secretary's Decision**III Inpatient Care**

VA will pursue the opportunity to improve access to inpatient care in VISN 6 by developing a sharing agreement with the Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital (*Reference – VA/DoD Sharing: Crosscutting*).

VA will increase inpatient capacity throughout the VISN through new construction, renovation, or conversion of vacant space. VA will ensure that enhancements to inpatient care will assess the impact on, and not diminish the availability of, outpatient care.

CARES Commission Recommendation**IV Outpatient Care**

The Commission concurs with the DNCP proposal for outpatient construction and conversion of space to address current and projected space gaps in Hampton, Richmond, Durham, Fayetteville, Asheville and Salisbury.

The Commission recommends that the Secretary and USH utilize their authority to establish new CBOCs within the VHA medical appropriations without regard to the three priority groups for CBOCs outlined in the DNCP.

Secretary's Decision

IV Outpatient Care

VA will address current and projected space deficiencies in Hampton, Richmond, Durham, Fayetteville, Asheville, and Salisbury through new construction, conversion of vacant space, and by using existing authorities and policies to contract for care where necessary.

The VISN also will develop new CBOCs through the National CBOC Approval Process. VISN 6 has 17 new CBOCs targeted for priority implementation by 2012:

Parent Facility	Planned New Facility Name	State
Beckley VAMC	Lewisburg	WV
Beckley VAMC	Bluefield	WV
Salem VAMC	Staunton	VA
Salem VAMC	Radford	VA
Salem VAMC	Lynchburg	VA
Asheville VAMC	Franklin	NC
Asheville VAMC	Rutherfordton	NC
Asheville VAMC	Hendersonville	NC
Salisbury VAMC	Gastonia	NC
Salisbury VAMC	Hickory	NC
Salisbury VAMC	Greensboro	NC
Fayetteville VAMC	Hamlet	NC
Fayetteville VAMC	Lumberton	NC
Fayetteville VAMC	Supply	NC
Hampton VAMC	Norfolk	VA
Richmond VAMC	Charlottesville	VA
Richmond VAMC	Emporia	VA

These new sites of care will help the VISN, which currently is below access standards in all four of its markets, to meet national access standards (*Reference – Contracting for Care, Community-Based Outpatient Clinics: Crosscutting*).

CARES Commission Recommendation

V Enhanced Use

The Commission concurs with the DNCP proposal for Durham’s enhanced use leasing (EUL) project and further recommends that specific target dates for implementation be set and final actions defined.

If the EUL plan does not materialize, the Commission recommends that the VISN quickly develop an alternative approach to meet shortfalls in its outpatient primary and specialty care, research, and parking space needs.

Secretary’s Decision

V Enhanced Use

VA will meet anticipated patient care, parking, and research space needs in Durham through an existing proposal for an enhanced use lease project or through new construction, conversion of vacant space, leases, or use of existing policies and authorities to contract for care where necessary (*Reference – Excess VA Property, Contracting for Care: Crosscutting*).