VD-HCBS Educational Webinar

July 19, 2017
Purpose

- Share information about VD-HCBS Program growth
- Learn from VA about current status of VA’s Choice Program
- Discuss VA’s approach to VD-HCBS in FY2018 and beyond
- Ask and address questions regarding short, mid- and long-term implications for VD-HCBS
VA Choice Update

• VA’s Choice Program (VCP) was established to allow Veterans to receive care outside of VA Medical Centers under certain criteria.

• In December 2015, VA promulgated regulations that allowed VAMCs to enter into VA Choice Provider Agreements with Aging & Disability Network Agencies (ADNAs) to include ADRCs, AAAs, CILs and SUAs for VD-HCBS.

• To enter into a VA Choice Provider Agreements, ADNAs were required to submit:
  - A signed Provider Agreement (VA Form 10-10145)
  - Tax ID or Employee Identifier Number (EIN)
  - National Provider Identifier
  - A training policy for self-directed programs that meets state requirements.
VA Choice Update

• To date, 97 ADNAs delivering VD-HCBS have signed a VA Choice Provider Agreement to serve Veterans through VCP.

• VAMCs have been able to leverage VA Choice Provider Agreements and VCP funding to increase access to healthcare services, including VD-HCBS, for Veterans since the start of FY17.

• At this time, VAMCs, depending on local VCP funding availability, may be limited to enroll new Veterans into VCP under VA Choice Provider Agreements for the remainder of FY17.
  - This includes enrolling new Veterans for VD-HCBS.
VA Choice Update

• Guidance has been issued to VA Medical Centers to adapt to the update on VCP funding availability

• Currently, VAMCs are identifying if VCP funding exists to:
  - Extend VA authorizations for existing Veterans to continue to receive VD-HCBS through VCP. If VCP funding does exist, VAMCs may extend VA Choice authorizations through the end of the fiscal year
  - Enroll new Veterans eligible to receive VCP, including VD-HCBS through the end of the fiscal or calendar year

• If VAMCs do not have VCP funding available to extend or create new VCP authorizations:
  - VAMCs can utilize traditional Non-VA Care (NVC) to authorize services, including VD-HCBS
  - If NVC funds are not available locally, VAMCs will place Veterans on an electronic waiting list (EWL) for services
VA Choice Update

- For VAMCs, the impact of the VCP update is that:
  - VAMCs will place an emphasis on providing care in the least restrictive setting and reserve HCBS to delay and prevent nursing home use
  - Support Veterans with significant personal care services that are at risk of nursing home placement
  - Utilize EWLs to track unmet need for HCBS, including VD-HCBS

- VA has requested additional Care in the Community funding from Congress for FY18 to continue to support growth in community care access for Veterans
VA Choice Update: Provider Agreements

- VAMCs are not likely to establish NEW VA Choice Provider Agreements

- VAMCs will continue to renew existing VA Choice Provider Agreements on an annual basis

- VAMCs making VD-HCBS referrals under Non-VA Care will require the same documentation of VD-HCBS Providers as under VA Choice
VD-HCBS Authorizations

- VAMCs and ADNAs should track and monitor VD-HCBS authorizations
  - VAMCs will issue VA authorizations under VA Choice using VA Form 10-0386a for VD-HCBS
  - VAMCs will issue VA authorizations under Non-VA care using VA Form 10-7079 for VD-HCBS

- As a reminder, VD-HCBS authorizations will generally include:
  - Veteran information (name, address, DOB, etc.)
  - Period of authorization (length will depend on local VAMC policies)
  - Case-Mix Rate and total VD-HCBS budget for period of authorization
  - Other medical information related to the Veteran
VD-HCBS Future State

• It is not yet known how VA Choice, Community Care and Provider Agreements will be used in the future
  - There is pending legislation to continue use of Provider Agreements
  - Provider Agreements are a priority in the President’s budget submission and supported by VA Secretary Shulkin

• VA continues to strive to meet the strategic goal for nationwide VD-HCBS access by FY2019

• VA anticipates being able to continue to grow access to LTSS for Veterans, including VD-HCBS, in FY2018
VD-HCBS Programs: Current Action

• VD-HCBS Programs, including VAMCs and ADNAs, should discuss and work collaboratively to adapt to the transition environment for the remainder of FY2017. Specific activities include:
  ▪ Promptly submit and process VD-HCBS invoices
  ▪ Track status of unpaid VD-HCBS invoices and work collaboratively to identify any issues causing payments to take longer than 30 days
  ▪ Maintain a record of VD-HCBS authorizations and monitor when authorizations for VD-HCBS require renewal
  ▪ Email the VD-HCBS TA mailbox at veteran-directed@acl.hhs.gov with any issues, questions or concerns regarding VD-HCBS
Questions?
Closing

• The next VD-HCBS Educational Webinar will be held in October

• Any updates on VA Choice or the future state of VD-HCBS will be distributed to VD-HCBS Programs!

• Thank you for all of your hard work in serving Veterans through VD-HCBS!

• Please provide your feedback on today’s Presentation:
  - https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JulyVD-HCBSEducationalWebinar