

## INMATE HEALTH CARE

### *Spending on Inmate Health Care, 2018*

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

**Reducing reimbursement rates** ► The General Assembly may wish to include language in the Appropriation Act directing the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) to design a pilot project that would test the feasibility and assess the impact of using lower rates, potentially based on Medicare rates, for physician and outpatient services. VADOC should submit the pilot project design to the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees, and implement the pilot project no later than 2021. (Recommendation 1)

**Enhanced academic partnerships** ► The General Assembly may wish to include language in the Appropriation Act directing the Virginia Department of Corrections and the VCU Health Authority to undertake a pilot project to provide clinical pharmacy services to a specific population of inmates. (Recommendation 3)

#### POLICY OPTION

*Staff typically propose policy options rather than make recommendations when (i) the action is a policy judgment best made by elected officials—especially the General Assembly, (ii) evidence suggests action could potentially be beneficial, or (iii) a report finding could be addressed in multiple ways.*

**Reducing number of inmates requiring health care** ► The General Assembly could amend Title 53.1 of the Code of Virginia to allow inmates to petition the Virginia Parole Board for conditional release based on serious illness. (Option 1)