

NHI Medical Directors Desk

Dear Virgin Islands National Health Insurance Beneficiaries.

As you may be aware the Virgin Islands National Health Insurance program officially turned five (5) years in January of 2021. In celebration of this milestone, the Disease Management and Wellness Program (D.M.W.P) which was launched in June 2017, will be revived as it has remained dormant since June 2017 due to various challenges.

The Goal of the Disease Management and Wellness Program is to establish a national framework for ensuring that all NHI beneficiaries are adequately exposed to the concepts of disease management and wellness and have ample access to the necessary tools and support systems to assist them in achieving an improved or optimal health status.

The Objectives set out for the D.M.W.P for 2021-22 will include the rollout and completion of a national health risk survey using a Health Risk Assessment Tool (HRAT), a Hypertension Awareness and Sensitization Campaign and other health and wellness efforts.

The health risk assessment tool (HRAT) is designed to assess the practices and health seeking behaviours of NHI beneficiaries throughout the territory. Participants would be risk stratified as high, medium, or low risk based on the answers provided in their survey. This information would be valuable for improved health planning, chronic disease management, and health and wellness promotion, throughout the territory.

We hope to commence the national health risk assessment shortly which is accessible via the survey monkey platform. Your assistance in filling the survey and providing critical feedback regarding our territory's health status is anticipated and appreciated.

The hypertension campaign should bring increased awareness to the most common chronic disease affecting these Virgin Islands, which is classified under the spectrum of cardiovascular diseases. The campaign will commence in 2022 with a planned series of random hypertensive screening and educational efforts. Please look out for the details as they become available.

As medical director of the Virgin Islands National Health Insurance and a practicing physician, I am in full support of the D.M.W.P and all other health and wellness initiatives being offered within the territory.

Unfortunately, without your support and assistance, the above initiatives cannot and will not be successful.

Therefore, let's commit to working together to attain a **(well)** BVI under the Slogan.

"Be Happy, Be Healthy BVI".

I look forward to a (well) Virgin Islands.

Kind Regards



Dr. Vanterpool

Medical Director