

FYI Weekly

HEALTH CARE NEWS FOR VIRGINIA'S HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

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1. VHHA in Action

Each day, VHHA actively works on behalf of its members, their employees, and Virginians to advance the interests of Virginia's hospitals and health care systems. In the past week, here are some developments of interest to Virginia hospitals and health systems:

- This week, VHHA held an in-person **Cybersecurity Summit** with event programming that featured representatives from the **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)** and informative presentations about the current cybersecurity environment.
- In a recent [letter](#) to health care providers, **Virginia State Health Commissioner Dr. Karen Shelton**, MD, addresses the national shortage of Penicillin G benzathine (Bicillin L-A®) and treatment recommendations at a time of rising syphilis cases in Virginia, including early syphilis, late or unknown duration cases, as well as increases in ocular, otic, neurological, and congenital syphilis cases. The letter recommends health care professionals screen at-risk patients in accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). Read more [here](#).
- [ChartSpan](#), a [VHHA Solutions](#) endorsed partner, has shared a white paper discussing Medicare claims data for 2023, and the results are exciting. Chronic Care Management (CCM) with ChartSpan leads to lower health care costs and fewer emergency department visits for Medicare patients. According to ChartSpan averages, patients who enroll in CCM have: 20 percent fewer ED visits; a 52 percent decrease in 30-day hospital readmission rates; 36 percent lower inpatient costs; and a 21 percent reduction in total costs. Download the report [here](#) to see more detailed claims data. Contact Bryan Hudson at bhudson@vhha.com to learn more about CCM and preventative care.

- The **Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR)** has indicated it will work with the **U.S. Department of Commerce** to [assess](#) the pharmaceutical industrial base to better understand the pharmaceutical supply chain and how it has changed since the COVID-19 pandemic. The study will inform federal strategies and funding decisions related to the API supply chain and raise awareness of potential supply chain issues, such as the current limited domestic manufacturing capabilities and other potential issues. Read more [here](#).
- The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** advises health care providers and facilities to stop using NIM Contact EMG Reinforced Endotracheal Tubes and NIM (Standard) EMG Reinforced Endotracheal Tubes by Medtronic. These neural integrity monitor (NIM) electromyogram (EMG) endotracheal tubes are used during surgery to provide an airway for patient ventilation and to monitor EMG activity and the nerve integrity of the thyroarytenoid muscle of the larynx. Recently, Medtronic issued an Urgent Medical Device Recall notice for removal of all NIM Standard and Contact EMG endotracheal tubes from inventory due to issues with tube blockage. Read more [here](#).
- **HosPAC**, the political action committee of VHHA, is in the midst of its 2024 fundraising campaign and needs support from members of the health care community. Financial contributions of any amount, large or small, help HosPAC support candidates for state office who are committed to strengthening the health care delivery system in Virginia by growing the health care workforce, promoting access to care, and investing in public health. By supporting candidates from both parties who champion these values, HosPAC helps advance the voice of the health care community in state public policy development. Please consider contributing to HosPAC to support this important work on behalf of Virginia hospitals, health systems, and their teams. Visit this [link](#) to make contributions and contact Hannah Coley at hcoley@vhha.com with any questions.
- The **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)** recently announced notices of funding opportunities with a total value of \$27.5 million that are focused on improving women's behavioral health across the United States. The notices of funding opportunities, supported with resources from the American Rescue Plan, are intended to support women's behavioral health by expanding access to services, and enhancing the capacity of providers to identify and address mental health conditions, substance use, and gender-based violence. The funding opportunities include \$15 million for the [Community-Based Maternal Behavioral Health Services Program](#), and \$12.5 million from the [Women's Behavioral Health Technical Assistance Center](#). Read more [here](#).
- Registration is now open for an upcoming **Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)** five-day Sexual Exploitation Treatment & Training Services (SETTS) course developed by Trauma and Hope. The five-day course provides education and training to professionals who work with sex trafficking survivors. The in-person training is free but participants must [register](#) in advance. It is scheduled for Sept. 16-20 (9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily) in Fredericksburg, VA. Participants are responsible for their own transportation, lodging, and meals. DCJS will provide participants with hotel information prior to the training session. The address of each training location and complete details about the training will be sent to confirmed participants via e-mail. Read more [here](#) and direct questions to DCJS State Trafficking Training Coordinator Blane Sawyer at blane.sawyer@dcjs.virginia.gov.
- The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** recently issued the Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: Patient Engagement, Information Sharing, and Public Health Interoperability (HTI-2) [proposed rule](#). The intent of the proposed rule is to advance

interoperability, improve transparency, and support the access, exchange, and the use of electronic health information. It includes certification criteria to support the technical requirements included in the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) 2024 Interoperability and Prior Authorization final rule** to facilitate electronic prior authorization. A 60-day public comment period is expected following publication of the proposed rule in the Federal Register.

- In response to interruptions in the supply of Beckton Dickinson BACTEC blood culture media bottles, the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** is recommending that laboratories and health care providers consider conservation strategies to prioritize the use of blood culture media bottles, preserving available supplies for patients at highest risk. Current supply challenges may impact patient diagnosis, follow up patient management, and antimicrobial stewardship efforts. A list of specific conservation recommendations is available [here](#). In related news, the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** has also issued an advisory alerting health care providers, laboratory professionals, and others in health care settings of a critical shortage of Becton Dickinson BACTEC blood culture bottles. Read more [here](#).
- The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** is providing updated recommendations to empower companies that issue digital communications to address internet-based misinformation from third parties related to the approval of medical products. The draft guidance, [Addressing Misinformation About Medical Devices and Prescription Drugs: Questions and Answers](#), sets out a policy that supports companies issuing such clarifying communications. [Public comment](#) about the draft guidance is being accepted through Sept. 9. Read more [here](#).
- VHHA actively engages with the news media to share public messaging and coordinate member media appearances to showcase the important work done by Virginia hospitals. That includes recent coverage from [Chief Healthcare Executive](#), [Charlottesville Right Now](#), [WVEC](#), [WRIC](#), and the [Montgomery County News Messenger](#).

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2. Mid-Atlantic ADA Center to Host Aug. 22 Webinar on ‘Communication in Healthcare Settings’

The **Mid-Atlantic ADA Center**, the **Southeast ADA Center**, the **University of Kentucky Human Development institute**, and the **Syracuse University Burton Blatt Institute** are presenting an Aug. 22 webinar (10 a.m. ET) on “Effective Communication in Healthcare Settings.” The webinar content will cover the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements when healthcare providers interact with people with communication disabilities. The webinar will feature a presentation from **Steven Gordon**, Civil Rights Enforcement Coordinator and Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia. Register for the webinar [here](#).

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3. CMS Issues Final Guidance on Medicare Prescription Payment Plan

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** recently released [final guidance](#) on the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan that will begin next year (2025). The plan will provide individuals who have Medicare Part D coverage with the option to pay out-of-pocket prescription drug costs in monthly installments rather than paying in full at the pharmacy counter. This final guidance complements CMS’

upcoming national education and program implementation efforts that will be coordinated with Part D plans, pharmacies, providers, drug manufacturers, and beneficiary advocates. Read more [here](#).

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4. Microsoft Publishes Recovery Tool to Address CrowdStrike Falcon System Disruptions

In response to information technology system disruptions impacting organizations using **Microsoft Windows**, the company has issued an [updated recovery tool](#) with repair options to assist IT administrators in the [remediation process](#). Last week, organizations around the globe experienced Microsoft Windows information technology outages related to CrowdStrike software updates. Virginia hospitals and health systems experienced varying degrees of impact and disruption due to this malfunction. Throughout the episode, the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA)**, in collaboration with its partners at the **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)** and other agencies, have actively monitored this situation and offered coordinating assistance as needed through both statewide resources and the Commonwealth's regional healthcare coalitions. That support network is a product of the longstanding VHHA and VDH partnership through the Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program (VHEMP), which functions to mobilize assistance, resources, and support services in response to public health emergencies ranging from infectious outbreaks, natural disasters, and manmade events.

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5. Virginia Organization for Nurse Leaders to Host Fall Conference in September

The **Virginia Organization for Nurse Leaders (VONL)** has scheduled its 2024 Fall Conference for Sept. 13 at The Westin – Richmond. The conference theme is “Mastering the Canvas: Nursing Leadership in Practice.” Continuing education credits are available to event participants. [Abstract applications for poster presentations](#) are being accepted. Questions about that process may be sent to VONLstaff@gmail.com; the submission deadline is Aug. 6. View event details, including the speaker lineup, and register for the conference through this [link](#).

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6. VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features Long-Serving Sentara Radiology Technician

The latest episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Pam Smith**, a recently retired radiology technician who earned the nickname “X-ray Pam” during her 38-year career at **Sentara Norfolk General Hospital**. She joins us for a conversation about her career, bone density scans, workforce development, her retirement plans, and more. Listen to the episode [here](#) and hear past episodes through this [link](#). Podcast episodes are also available through these podcast apps and networks: [Apple Podcast](#), [Amazon Music](#), [Spotify](#), [Pandora](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Stitcher](#), [TuneIn](#), [SoundCloud](#), [Blubrry](#), [iHeart Radio](#), [Deezer](#), [Podbay](#), [Overcast](#), [Pocket Casts](#), the [Virginia Audio Collective](#), the [Public Health Podcast Network](#), the [World Podcast Network](#), and the [Family Podcast Network](#). The podcast can also be heard on the radio airwaves – episodes air each Sunday at noon on 100.5 FM, 107.7 FM, 92.7 FM, and 820 AM across Central Virginia and 1650 AM in Hampton Roads, 105.1 FM and 1050 AM in Lynchburg, and Wednesdays at 1 p.m. on 93.9 FM in Richmond. Send questions, comments, feedback, or guest suggestions to pcfpodcast@vhha.com. – Julian Walker

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7. AHA Seeks Applicants for 2025 Quest for Quality Prize

The application window is open for the **American Hospital Association (AHA) 2025 Quest for Quality Prize**, which recognizes hospitals and health systems committed to leadership and innovation in improving quality and advancing health. Hospitals and health systems that are making significant progress toward providing exceptional care based on the National Academy of Medicine’s six health aims – safe, timely, effective, efficient, equitable and patient-centered care – are encouraged to apply for the 2025 AHA Quest for Quality Prize. Up to five organizations will be recognized at the 2025 AHA Leadership Summit in Nashville. Access the application form through this [link](#).

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8. Virginia Hospital Staff Encouraged to Complete 2024 VHHA Member Feedback Survey

VHHA is sharing the 2024 Member Feedback Survey, which provides individuals who work for VHHA member hospitals and health systems, as well as other stakeholders engaged with the Association, with an opportunity to share their insights and observations about the VHHA, its work, programming, and engagement activities. Please take a moment to complete the survey and share feedback about VHHA [here](#).

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9. Qualivis to Host Aug. 15 Clinician Burnout Webinar

[Qualivis](#), a [VHHA Solutions](#) endorsed partner, is scheduled to host a webinar on Thursday, Aug. 15 at noon EST focused on addressing clinician burnout, which remains a central concern for leaders striving to enhance retention and elevate patient outcomes. While many human resources and clinical leaders are undergoing organizational and policy changes to address burnout, AI-enabled technology may be an additional tool in the burnout toolkit. The webinar will explore the potential of this technology to alleviate burnout and enhance the well-being of managers, clinicians, and patients. Expert panelists will offer insights on navigating the landscape of AI technology, emphasizing essential considerations and best practices for successful adoption. Register for the webinar [here](#).

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10. Around the State

Congratulations to **Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, Centra Lynchburg General Hospital, Chesapeake Regional Medical Center, Chippenham and Johnston-Willis Hospitals, Henrico Doctors’ Hospital, Inova Fair Oaks Hospital, Inova Fairfax Hospital, Mary Washington Hospital, Sentara Leigh Hospital, Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital, UVA Medical Center, VCU Medical Center, VHC Health, and Winchester Medical Center** on being recognized in the *U.S. News & World Report 2024 Best Hospitals* [rankings](#). – Salinna Lor

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