



FYI Weekly

HEALTHCARE NEWS FOR VIRGINIA'S
HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

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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 systems. In the past week, these are some developments of interest to Virginia hospitals and health systems:

VHHA Hosts Meeting of Board of Directors' Executive Committee

- This week, the **Executive Committee** of the **VHHA Board of Directors** met for a discussion about issues of interest and importance to hospitals and health systems, including operational considerations and state and federal policy issues.

Virginia Hospital Leaders Invited to Attend VHHA Centennial Member Appreciation Event on April 15

- The **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association** (VHHA) is inviting hospital leaders to a **Member Appreciation Centennial Celebration** on April 15 at VHHA offices in Glen Allen, VA. Hospital leaders who are engaged with VHHA through participation in events and various Association committees, task forces, and forums are encouraged to attend this event as part of the ongoing celebration of 100 years of service to Virginia's hospitals and health systems. The event will be held April 15 from 5-8 p.m. Please register through this [link](#). Discounted hotel accommodations can be booked [here](#).

VHEMP Hosts Webinar Briefing on National Disaster Medical System

- This week, VHHA supported a webinar briefing by **National Disaster Medical System** (NDMS) representatives from the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services'** (HHS) **Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response** (ASPR). The briefing offered an overview of capabilities for providing healthcare overseas and stateside during emergency operations. The webinar was presented by the **Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program** (VHEMP), which is a partnership between the **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH), the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association** (VHHA), and the four regional healthcare coalitions.

VHHA in the News

- 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 work is reflected in recent coverage from [Virginia Business](#), [WHRO](#), and the [Virginia Independent](#).

News Updates

Governor Spanberger Signs Bills on Prior Authorization, Insurance Reform, Telehealth

This week, **Virginia Governor Abigail Spanberger** signed several healthcare-related bills passed by the **Virginia General Assembly**. They include [House Bill 736](#) to limit insurance prior authorization that delays access to care, [House Bill 424](#) and [Senate Bill 745](#) to prevent health insurers from restricting in-network referrals for certain laboratory and pathology services, [House Bill 425](#) directing the state **Department of Medical Assistance Services** (DMAS) to study the prospect of Medicaid coverage for remote patient

monitoring services via telemedicine for pregnant women 35 and older, [House Bill 6](#) and [Senate Bill 596](#) to establish a right to contraceptive access, and [House Bill 456](#) and [Senate Bill 291](#) that direct the **State Board of Health** to develop standards for the designation of neonatal care services consistent with those of the **American Academy of Pediatrics**, including the development of applicable regulations. Monday, April 13 is the deadline for the Governor to take action on bills passed by the legislature this year. The General Assembly is scheduled to return to Richmond on April 22 to consider legislative amendments made by the Governor. In related news, Virginia's legislature has yet to complete work on the Commonwealth's two-year state budget. A legislative special session to address the budget is scheduled for April 23. The state fiscal year in Virginia begins on July 1.

CMS Issues Medicare Advantage, Part D Payment Policies for 2027

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently [announced](#) Medicare Advantage (MA) and Part D rates for calendar year (CY) 2027. The adjustments are anticipated to yield a net average increase of 2.48 percent, or more \$13 billion in additional MA payments to plans in CY 2027. This expected increase includes consideration of the various elements that impact MA payments, such as growth rates of underlying costs, 2026 Star Ratings for 2027 quality bonus payments, and risk adjustment updates. In consideration of the impact that the 2024 MA risk adjustment model had between CY 2024 and CY 2026, CMS will continue using the 2024 MA risk adjustment model for CY 2027. The agency will evaluate the public feedback received as it considers future updates to the MA risk adjustment model. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

CMS Issues Proposed Rules on IPF, IRF, SNF PPS, Hospice Payments and Oversight

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently issued several proposed rules that would update Medicare payment policies and rates for [inpatient psychiatric facilities](#) (IPF), [inpatient rehabilitation facilities](#) (IRF), and [skilled nursing facilities](#) (SNF) under the Prospective Payment System (PPS) for fiscal year (FY) 2027. CMS also issued proposed rules to [update Medicare hospice payments](#) and the aggregate cap amount for FY 2027, and to implement new [hospice oversight and transparency standards](#). The IPF PPS proposed rule would update payment rates by 2.3 percent, based on the proposed 2021-based IPF market basket increase of 3.1 percent, less a proposed 0.8 percentage point productivity adjustment. It also includes updates to the IPF Quality Reporting Program. The IRF PPS proposed rule would update payment rates by 2.4 percent based on the proposed IRF market basket update of 3.2 percent, less a proposed 0.8 percentage point productivity adjustment. The proposed rule includes annual updates to the prospective payment rates, the outlier threshold, the case-mix-group relative weights and average length of stay values, the wage index, and associated impact analysis. For FY 2027, CMS proposes updating SNF PPS rates by 2.4 percent based on the proposed SNF market basket of 3.2 percent, and a negative 0.8 percent productivity adjustment.

U.S. 2026 Measles Cases Already at 73 Percent of 2025 Total, Outbreaks in Utah, S.C. Grow

Three months into 2026, the U.S. has had 1,671 confirmed measles cases, which is 73 percent of the 2,286 confirmed cases documented across the nation in all of 2025, which at the time was the highest annual count in several decades. The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) [reports](#) that the overwhelming majority of current year cases have been documented in 33 jurisdictions: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York City, New York state, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah,

Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. [Virginia](#) has had 17 measles cases so far in 2025, compared to five last year, according to the **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)**. Meanwhile, [South Carolina](#) and [Utah](#) are experiencing active measles outbreaks. South Carolina has documented 997 measles cases in its current outbreak dating to late 2025 and Utah has 386 cases so far this year, compared to 197 in 2025.

CMS Issues Guidance Memo on Hospital Food Standards

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** recently issued a [memorandum](#) regarding hospital patient food and nutrition service expectations under the federal Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) 2025-2030. The guidelines focus on prioritizing whole and minimally processed foods. They are intended to help inform patient nutrition services and related hospital protocols. Under the federal Conditions of Participation, hospitals are advised to ensure that their menus meet patient nutritional needs in accordance with recognized dietary practices, qualified dietitian oversight, maintenance of a current therapeutic diet manual, and integration of dietary services into Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) processes.

Events

Register for the Virginia Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Summit on April 22 in Richmond

Register now for the **Virginia Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Summit**, which is scheduled for April 22, 2026 at The Westin-Richmond. “The Preparedness Crossroads: Integrating Legacy Challenges with Emerging Global Threats” is the theme for the Summit being hosted by the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA)** and the **VHHA Foundation**. Summit programming will feature local, state, and national speakers sharing insights on topics related to strengthening the Commonwealth’s preparedness for threats to the healthcare delivery system including cyber-attacks, outpatient center safety and preparedness, continuing operations during a water interruption, department level business continuity, tracking costs during disasters, and supply chain management during disasters. Visit this [link](#) to register and view additional program information.

Register for the Virginia Healthcare Workforce Summit, a Virtual Event on May 19

Registration is open for the 2026 **Virginia Healthcare Workforce Summit**, which is scheduled to be held May 19 as a virtual event. “Reimagining the Healthcare Workforce: Innovation, Engagement, and the Future of Work” is the theme of this year’s Summit, which will explore innovative strategies for hospitals to adapt their practices, focusing on developing, recruiting, retaining, and supporting team members in a rapidly changing workplace. Visit this [link](#) to register and view additional program information.

Register for April 15 Pediatric Pandemic Network Virtual Exercise

Register now for an April 15 virtual table-top exercise that is part of the Pediatric Pandemic Network series in which the **Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program (VHEMP)** is participating. The upcoming exercise will be facilitated by the **VHHA Emergency Preparedness Department**. The exercise will focus on the scenario for a response to an infectious disease surge that involves pre-hospital, hospital, and interagency partners. The virtual exercise will be hosted from 1-4 p.m. Participants will receive exercise materials and a record of participation. Register through this [link](#). Following

registration, the exercise link and materials will be shared. Questions may be directed to preparedness@vhha.com.

Register for VASHRM Spring Conference April 23-24 in Richmond

The **Virginia Chapter of the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management (VASHRM)** is hosting its 2026 Spring Conference April 23-24 in Richmond. “Risk at the Crossroads: Navigating a Changing Healthcare Landscape” is the theme for the conference whose agenda includes a legislative update, clinical event debriefing and analysis, AI in clinical risk, service animals in healthcare settings, standardizing documentation of workplace violence risk, litigation risks, defense against malpractice claims, and more. Register through this [link](#).

Registration Open for IHI Open School Quality & Patient Safety Certificate Program

The **VHHA Center for Healthcare Excellence** is again offering hospital team members the opportunity to participate in the **Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Open School Certificate Program in Quality & Patient Safety**. Through the online learning modules available, program participants have one year to complete 13 core courses (from a menu of more than 30) to earn a Basic Quality & Safety Certificate. Those courses take an estimated 13-22 hours to complete and 17.75 continuing education credits are available for the 13 courses. The [courses](#) offer a dynamic learning environment for healthcare professionals of all levels. IHI is an independent not-for-profit organization and a leading innovator, convener, partner, and driver of results in health and healthcare improvement worldwide. Its online courses are created by world-renowned faculty in quality improvement, patient safety, triple aim for populations, person- and family-centered care, and leadership. Content is delivered through narrative, video, and interactive discussion. Access to courses will be available from June 1, 2026-May 30, 2027. Healthcare professionals including physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, hospital managers, quality, safety, risk management, patient experience, and population health staff and leaders are encouraged to apply for the program. The cost is \$199 to participate or \$399 without the VHHA group rate. The VHHA Center for Healthcare Excellence will host a May 14 informational webinar about the IHI Open School Certificate Program in Quality & Patient Safety program for 2026-2027. Register for the webinar [here](#). Please contact **Rachel Pryor** with questions at rpryor@vhha.com.

Podcast

VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features Virginia DBHDS Commissioner Daryl Washington

This episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Commissioner Daryl Washington**, the recently appointed leader of the **Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)**. He joins us for a conversation about his career in community-based behavioral health, public demand for mental health and substance use treatment services, his vision for DBHDS, 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](#), [Stitcher](#), [TuneIn](#), [SoundCloud](#), [Blubrry](#), [iHeart Radio](#), [Deezer](#), [Podbay](#), [Pocket Casts](#), the [Virginia Audio Collective](#), [Podcast Health](#), and the [World Podcast Network](#). The podcast can also be heard on the radio airwaves – episodes air Sundays at 9 a.m. on 100.5 FM, 107.7 FM, 92.7 FM, and 820 AM across Central Virginia and 1650 AM in Hampton Roads. Send questions, comments, feedback, or guest suggestions to pcfpodcast@vhha.com.



Around the State



Bansal



Conley



Hancock



Mohanty



Zeiber



Broyles

Leaders from several Virginia health systems will be featured speakers at the [Becker's Healthcare 16th Annual Meeting this month in Chicago, IL](#). They include: **Inova Alexandria Hospital** President and **Inova** Senior Vice President **Dr. Rina Bansal**, MD, MBA; **Sentara Health** Executive Vice President and President of Acute and Post-Acute Care **Eric Conley**, a member of the **VHHA Board of Directors**; Sentara Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer **Melinda Hancock**; Sentara Executive Vice President

and President of Ambulatory Care **Prasanna Mohanty**; Sentara Director of APP Development, Primary Care and Outpatient Medical Specialties **Stephanie Zeiber**; and Sentara Director of APP Development for Inpatient and Specialty Services **Jennifer Broyles**.



Laura McClelland, PhD, has been appointed Chair of the **VCU Department of Health Administration**, effective June 1. With nearly 15 years in the College, Dr. McClelland brings deep institutional knowledge and a forward-looking vision. She currently serves as Director of the Health Services Organization and Research (HSOR) PhD program. Her research on organizational compassion and its impact on workforce, patient experience, and performance has been widely published and featured in outlets such as CNN and Kaiser Health News. She has also contributed

to national conversations through service on a National Academy of Medicine advisory panel and brings prior consulting experience with PricewaterhouseCoopers and IBM.

Riverside Health has named **Jack Field**, MHA, President of **Riverside Mental Health & Recovery Center** (RMHRC). Field succeeds **Stacey Johnson**, who was recently named president of **Riverside Doctors' Hospital Williamsburg**. Field currently serves as Senior Director of Hospital Operations at Riverside Regional Medical Center, where he oversees a wide range of hospital services including laboratory, environmental services, inpatient transport, spiritual care, volunteer services, food and nutrition, and campus operations. Field holds a master of health administration degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and a bachelor of science degree in biology from Virginia Commonwealth University Honors College. Read more [here](#).



Sentara Health Chief Research Officer **Dr. John Brush**, MD, has been awarded the 2026 Master of the ACC Award by the **American College of Cardiology** in honor of his exceptional contributions to cardiovascular medicine. The prestigious Masters of the ACC award recognizes individuals who have displayed excellence in clinical practice, education, and scholarship. In addition to serving as Sentara Chief Research Officer, Dr. Brush is a professor at Eastern Virginia Medical School with research interests in outcomes and medical reasoning. He is certified by the

American Board of Internal Medicine in cardiovascular diseases and interventional cardiology, and he has served on the Board of Trustees of the American College of Cardiology and the Cardiovascular Board of the American Board of Internal Medicine. He is past president of the American College of Cardiology's Virginia Chapter and the American Heart Association Hampton Roads Affiliate. Read more [here](#).