



FYI Weekly

HEALTHCARE NEWS FOR VIRGINIA'S
HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

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FEATURED CONTENT

[VHHA in Action](#)

[News Updates](#)

- [Virginia General Assembly Finds State Budget Compromise to Avert a Government Shutdown](#)
- [HHS Accepting Grant Applications from Children's Hospitals for Regional Pediatric Service Funding](#)
- [FDA Advises Clinicians that Breast Biopsy Needle Shortage Expected to Continue into 2027](#)
- [HHS Announces Significant Funding Opportunities to Address Mental Health, Addiction, Homelessness](#)
- [FDA Initiative Seeks to Accelerate Drug Development Timelines](#)
- [CMS Accepting Public Comments on Final Rule for Oversight of Hospital Accreditation Organizations](#)

[Events](#)

- [VHHA to Host June 30 Webinar on Workplace Violence Reporting, Hospital Weapons Ban Laws](#)
- [VASHRM Issues Call for Speakers at Upcoming Healthcare Risk Management Educational Events](#)

[Podcast](#)

- [VHHA Patients Come First Podcast Features Riverside Health Nurse Leader, Advanced Practice Advocate](#)

[Around the State](#)

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:

Watch Video Recap of 2026 Virginia Emergency Preparedness Summit

- A video recap of the 2026 **Virginia Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Summit** held in April at The Westin-Richmond can be viewed online [here](#). “The Preparedness Crossroads: Integrating Legacy Challenges with Emerging Global Threats” was the theme for the Summit hosted by the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA)** and the **VHHA Foundation**. During the Summit, an audience of more than 250 attendees engaged with Summit programming 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, and supply chain management during disasters. Participants were also eligible to earn continuing education credits. Read more about the event [here](#), view the program brochure at this [link](#), and see an event photo gallery [here](#).

View VHHA Webinar Recording on VDH Guidance for Optimizing MDRO Flags in EDCC

- Patient transfers involve dozens of critical safety elements in a single handoff moment. A patient's infection status – including pending laboratory results, known colonization or active infection with a multidrug-resistant organism (MDRO), and the transmission-based precautions currently in place – is among the most critical information to convey. Non-disclosure of such details can lead to potential exposures for healthcare workers and patients, resulting in costly contact investigations for hospitals. VHHA recently hosted a webinar to provide information on two layers of protection to prevent such miscommunication: the new MDRO Communications Guide from the **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)** and optimizing the use of the MDRO flags in the Emergency Department Care Coordination System (EDCC). View a webinar recording [here](#).

View VHEMP Webinar Recording of National Weather Service Briefing on 2026 Hurricane Season

- The **Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program (VHEMP)** – a partnership between the **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)**, the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA)**, and the regional healthcare coalitions – recently hosted a webinar featuring **Katie Carter**, Emergency Response Specialist with the **National Weather Service (NWS)**. The briefing focused on the 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season and available NWS resources to assist in readiness and response. View a webinar recording [here](#).

View VHHA Documentary on Hospital Stories, Healthcare History Across the Commonwealth

- The new short film VHHA produced to honor healthcare professionals during the Association's [100th anniversary](#) is available online. *Healing and Hope: Hospitals' Legacy of Service in Virginia* is the documentary title and the film can be viewed online [here](#). Last month, the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA)** hosted a series of events in theaters around Virginia to show

the short film that highlights the positive economic and public health impact of hospitals, their evolving work, and their history in Virginia as told through the stories of Virginia patients and providers. Free film screening events were hosted May 11-18 in Wytheville, Glen Allen, Woodbridge, Woodstock, Hampton, and Roanoke during **National Nurses Week** and **National Hospital Week**. Read more about the project [here](#). View a documentary trailer [here](#), an accompanying program [here](#), and photos from the premiere events through this [link](#).

News Updates

Virginia General Assembly Finds State Budget Compromise to Avert a Government Shutdown

This week, the **Virginia General Assembly** took action to finalize [compromise budget legislation](#) setting state government spending levels for the two-year period that begins July 1. The deal arrives several months after the legislature adjourned in March without approving a budget bill to fund state government operations for the state fiscal year (SFY) 2026-2028 period. Disagreement between the **Virginia House of Delegates** and the **Virginia Senate** on tax incentives for data centers had been a sticking point in the budget talks. The conference report includes [language establishing a data center electricity consumption tax](#) that is projected to generate \$600 million annually for the state general fund. It also contains provisions related to further study and analysis of the impact of data centers as well as enhanced environmental oversight of data centers. On VHHA priorities, the budget conference report removes a provision from the introduced bill that would have required hospitals to contract with all Medicaid managed care organizations to remain eligible for supplemental state-directed payments. It removes language authorizing the state Medicaid agency to receive rebates from manufacturers on 340B pharmacy claims for Medicaid patients and adds new reporting language to require covered entities that dispense 340B drugs to Medicaid patients to submit detailed quarterly reports to the state. The conference report increases funding for residency slots from \$100,000 to \$145,000 per slot, per year. It transfers oversight of nursing scholarship and loan repayment programs to the **Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority** and expands its authority to collect workforce data for planning and forecasting purposes. The compromise provides funding to cover the costs of anonymous evidence collection exams for strangulation victims and clarifies that victims are not required to participate in the criminal justice process or cooperate with law enforcement to receive those services. It includes \$2.5 million in funding during SFY 2027 for Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Programs. And it includes \$3 million in funding over the biennium for behavioral health discharge planning. The House and Senate approved the compromise budget bill on Monday. The measure has been sent to **Virginia Governor Abigail Spanberger**, who has until June 29 to take action on it. According to news reports, the Governor is expected to make some technical amendments to the budget. The legislature is set to return to Richmond Monday to act on those amendments prior to the start of the new fiscal year. Looking ahead, VHHA will focus advocacy efforts on preparing for the 2027 legislation session and building on the progress in this biennial budget while advancing policies that strengthen the financial sustainability of Virginia's hospitals and health systems.

HHS Accepting Grant Applications from Children's Hospitals for Regional Pediatric Service Funding

Grant applications are now being accepted by the **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** under the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** to support pediatric services during emergencies. July 17 is the grant application submission deadline for funding to support the Regional

Pediatric Prevention Network (RPPN), which helps strengthen local and regional capacity to care for children during disasters and emergencies through community partnerships, coordinated pediatric preparedness, and dissemination of research-informed pediatric disaster care. The RPPN will include at least 10 children's hospitals, or their university pediatric partners, funded through two primary awards. It will also include community partners working with these hospitals. Each of the 10 children's hospital centers will advance pediatric emergency and disaster preparedness at the local, regional, and national levels, including for children with special health care needs and behavioral health concerns, children living in poverty, and children in rural, remote, and tribal areas. Read more [here](#).

FDA Advises Clinicians that Breast Biopsy Needle Shortage Expected to Continue into 2027

In a letter to healthcare providers, the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration** (FDA) recently [shared](#) that a widespread shortage in the supply of stereotactic breast biopsy needles is expected to last through March 2027. [Hologic Inc.](#), the manufacturer of the biopsy needles used to remove small breast tissue samples based on mammogram detection, cited the "presence of particulates in affected devices that can be deposited into breast tissue during use" as part of a recall notice earlier this year. Healthcare providers are encouraged to conserve their use of stereotactic breast biopsy needles. The **American College of Radiology** has also issued [guidance](#) on "mitigation strategies" in light of the biopsy needle shortage.

HHS Announces Significant Funding Opportunities to Address Mental Health, Addiction, Homelessness

The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS) recently [announced](#) a \$96 million funding opportunity for the Safety Through Recovery, Engagement, and Evidence-based Treatment and Support (STREETS) program, as well as \$612 million in funding opportunities for additional behavioral health programs. The STREETS program within the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration** (SAMHSA) will award eight communities up to \$3 million a year for four years. The program will distribute up to \$24 million each year to develop multisector, state-of-the-art care systems for people who are homeless and have substance use disorders, serious mental illness, or co-occurring disorders. Additional funding is available to support Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC), the 988 Suicide Crisis Lifeline, and for substance use and mental health support services.

FDA Initiative Seeks to Accelerate Drug Development Timelines

This week, the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration** (FDA) [announced](#) a series of actions to "accelerate and modernize clinical research across the full continuum of drug development" from the investigational new drug (IND) phase to late-stage trials as part of the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS) *Operation TrialBlazer* initiative. The agency indicates it is "eliminating unnecessary regulatory burden, clarifying phase-appropriate requirements, and building partnerships with government, academic medical centers and the private sector" as well as "enhancing its guidance for industry to facilitate greater efficiency further along the drug development continuum."

CMS Accepting Public Comments on Final Rule for Oversight of Hospital Accreditation Organizations

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently issued a [final rule](#) pertaining to oversight of accreditation organizations that ensure that hospitals and healthcare providers comply with Medicare Conditions of Participation. The final rule intends to strengthen the oversight of Medicare national accrediting organizations by addressing conflicts of interest, establishing consistent standards,

processes, and definitions, and updating validation and performance standards systems. The final rule also revises the psychiatric hospital survey process, adds a limitation on terminated deemed providers and suppliers when reentering the program, and provides technical corrections for end-stage renal disease facilities and transplant programs. Public comments on the final rule are being accepted. The regulations take effect on June 16, 2027. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Events

VHHA to Host June 30 Webinar on Workplace Violence Reporting, Hospital Weapons Ban Laws

Next week on Tuesday, June 30 at 10 a.m., VHHA will host a webinar to provide hospital members with updates on state laws pertaining to healthcare workplace violence data reporting and a new hospital weapons ban. The webinar will provide updates on recent action by the **Virginia General Assembly** this year that provides additional guidance on healthcare workplace violence data reporting requirements as well as another law that restricts weapons in facilities providing mental health, developmental, and emergency care services. Use this [link](#) to join the webinar.

VASHRM Issues Call for Speakers at Upcoming Healthcare Risk Management Educational Events

The **Virginia Chapter of the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management (VASHRM)** has issued a [call for speakers](#) for upcoming conferences and educational events. The group indicates it is “looking for engaging presentations that provide practical insights, innovative solutions, and actionable strategies for risk management professionals” on topics including involuntary behavioral health commitments, artificial intelligence risk financing, making the leadership case for risk programs, the consent rights of teens, safe discharges for unhoused individuals, death with dignity, and the medical malpractice cap. Healthcare leaders, risk professionals, attorneys, clinicians, technology specialists, and operational strategists with expertise and insight on those topics are encouraged to submit a speaking proposal. Submissions can be made through the link above or via e-mail: vashrm2@gmail.com.

Podcast

VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features Riverside Health Nurse Leader, Advanced Practice Advocate

This episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Terry Thompson**, an acute care nurse practitioner who serves as Senior Director of Advanced Practice Providers and Director of RMG Fellowships at **Riverside Health**. She joins us for a conversation about her professional journey, the role of advanced practice providers on clinical care teams, the work of a Riverside fellowship program to enhance patient care, 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](#), [Tuneln](#), [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 10 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



Ferrada



Kates



Restrepo



Saito

Dr. Paula Ferrada, MD, Medical Director of Perioperative Services and Chair of Surgery at **Inova Fairfax Medical Campus** and System Chief of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery at **Inova**; **Brian Kates**, Director of Risk Management and Quality at **Cumberland Hospital for Children and Adolescents**; **Dr. Nicolas Restrepo, MD**, Chief Quality and Patient Safety Officer at **Valley Health**; and **Dr. Jacqueline Saito, MD**, Chief Quality and Safety Officer and Vice President of Medical Affairs at **Children's National Hospital**; have been named to the *Becker's Hospital Review* list of 145 patient safety experts to know. Read more [here](#).



Brian R. Wamhoff, PhD, a biotech entrepreneur, drug discovery innovator, and longtime member of the University of Virginia community, has been named the inaugural Chief Strategy and Business Officer (CSBO) of the **University of Virginia's Paul and Diane Manning Institute of Biotechnology**. Wamhoff comes to the Manning Institute with more than 20 years of experience spanning academic research, company formation, and drug development. He is co-founder of HemoShear Therapeutics, a venture-backed clinical-stage rare disease company

and UVA spinout. Under his leadership, the HemoShear team secured strategic partnerships with multiple pharmaceutical companies, including Takeda and Horizon Therapeutics (now Amgen) totaling more than \$750 million in potential deal value. The team also raised more than \$18 million in Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) funding from five National Institutes of Health institutes and advanced a clinical-stage pipeline into pediatric ultra-rare diseases. In 2021, he was named one of the PharmaVOICE 100 most inspiring entrepreneurs in the industry. More recently, Wamhoff served as head of therapeutics for DVLP Medicines, a venture-backed, artificial intelligence-enabled drug-development company, where he focused on platform validation and biopharma partnerships. He also completed a term as Entrepreneur in Residence at the UVA Licensing & Ventures Group and served as a Public Director of the **UVA Physicians Group**. While at UVA, Wamhoff was a faculty member in the Departments of Medicine, Biomedical Engineering and Molecular Physiology and Biological Physics, where his NIH-funded lab developed multiple technologies through interdisciplinary collaboration that became the foundation for several UVA spinout companies. He holds 14 patents and has published more than 75 peer-reviewed papers with more than 8,000 citations. Wamhoff holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Rhodes College and a PhD from the University of Missouri. He completed his postdoctoral training at UVA's Robert M. Berne Cardiovascular Research Center. Read more [here](#).

Amanda Boggs, CPHT, Medication Access Program Specialist at **Norton Community Hospital (Ballad Health)**, recently received the You "Rx"ceptional Award from the **Virginia Health Care Foundation (VHCF)**. Boggs received the award for her work helping uninsured and underinsured patients obtain critical prescription medications through patient assistance programs. During her tenure, Boggs has helped more than 800 patients obtain more than 5,200 prescriptions valued at more than \$28 million in average wholesale price (AWP). As a result of her efforts, the number of patients utilizing patient assistance programs at Norton Community Hospital has more than doubled. Read more [here](#).

