



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 Participates in Healthcare Policy Roundtable Hosted by Virginia Governor

- This week, VHHA staff were among a group of invited stakeholders assembled by **Virginia Governor Abigail Spanberger** for a health policy roundtable at the State Capitol. The Governor hosted the roundtable discussion to hear from key community partners representing health plans, hospitals, and providers across Virginia about the sharp cuts imposed by H.R. 1 — the budget reconciliation package of 2025 known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” — and efforts underway to protect access to care for Virginians. The legislation is projected to cut nearly \$1 trillion from Medicaid over a decade and reduce federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) assistance support by \$187 billion. Estimates indicate Virginia hospitals will lose billions in funding and that millions of Americans, and several hundred thousand Virginians, will lose health coverage as a result.

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.

VHHA Foundation Provides Virtual 'Office Hour' Sessions for Hospital Members on Rural Health Grants

- The **VHHA Foundation** team is offering virtual consultations to hospital members seeking technical assistance and guidance on pursuing grant funding for graduate medical education and remote patient monitoring projects under the federal Rural Health Transformation Program. Visit this [link](#) to book time for a graduate medical education session and this [link](#) for an appointment on remote patient monitoring.

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 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](#). In May, 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

Public Comment Deadline is July 21 on CMS Proposed Changes to State Directed Payment Program

July 21 is the deadline to submit public comments on a [proposed rule](#) by the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) to modify Medicaid state-directed payment policies (DPP) and establish new requirements for certain fee-for-service supplemental payments. The proposed rule follows the 2025 passage of H.R. 1, the budget reconciliation legislation that changed Medicaid funding and policy. The proposed rule would potentially go beyond the budget legislation and further extend limits on total payment rates for all state directed payments across service categories and facilities. It would generally link payment levels to Medicare rates and phase out certain payment categories over time. There is a 30-day public comment period on the proposed rule. Changes to DPP under H.R. 1 and the proposed rule would have significant financial implications for the Commonwealth and its hospitals, costing billions annually in federal funding reductions that could impact access to care, public health, and the economy. VHHA is working with members and engaging with federal policymakers to express concern about the scope of the proposed rule. Read more [here](#).

CMS Issues CY 2027 Hospital Outpatient, Home Health Prospective Payment System Proposed Rules

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently issued proposed rules reflecting policy changes under the [home health prospective payment system](#) (PPS) and the [hospital outpatient and ambulatory surgical center](#) (ASC) PPS for calendar year (CY) 2027. The hospital outpatient proposed rule calls for an increase of Medicare rates by a net 2.4 percent in 2027 compared to 2026. The proposal also seeks to expand site-neutral payment policy to certain imaging services performed in off-campus hospital outpatient departments. It would apply the physician fee schedule (PFS) equivalent payment rate for any healthcare common procedure coding system (HCPCS) codes assigned to imaging without contrast ambulatory payment classifications (APC) when provided at off-campus provider-based departments (PBD). It is estimated this would reduce outpatient PPS spending by \$260 million in 2027. Another proposed change would significantly reduce payments for drugs acquired under the 340B program. It is estimated this reduction would cut original Medicare drug payments by \$4.55 billion dollars and beneficiary drug payments by \$1.15 billion in the first year. Federal law requires the policy to be implemented in a budget neutral manner, so the proposal would be offset by increasing OPPS payments for non-drug services by an equivalent amount. Read more [here](#). On home health, the rule proposes a 2.4 percent update, which includes a 3.1 percent market basket update, reduced by a 1.0 percentage point cut for productivity, as well as a 0.3 percentage point increase related to outlier payments. Read more [here](#). Public comments are being accepted on the proposed rules. Aug. 31 is the deadline to submit comments.

VDH Reports 10 Cases of Cyclosporiasis Parasitic Illness as U.S. Cases Grow

This week, the **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) reported that [10 cases](#) of Cyclosporiasis have been documented in the Commonwealth. [Cyclosporiasis](#) is an infection of the intestine caused by a parasite called *Cyclospora*. The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) has [received reports](#) of 145 cases of cyclosporiasis in the United States from May 1- June 16, noting there “is currently no evidence of a single, multistate *Cyclospora* outbreak linking all cases.” VDH notes that the majority of cases and outbreaks are reported during the spring and summer months, although infections can occur year-round. Most outbreaks of cyclosporiasis have been linked to imported fresh produce. Cyclosporiasis is not spread directly from person-to-person. This form of the parasite then can infect someone by entering the body through the mouth, typically by eating or drinking something that is contaminated with *Cyclospora*, which infects the intestines and usually causes watery diarrhea. Other symptoms can include loss of appetite, weight loss, bloating, increased gas, stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting, muscle aches, low-grade fever, and fatigue. Symptoms usually appear within one week after exposure and if not treated, the illness can last from a few days to a month, or longer. Individuals with cyclosporiasis symptoms are encouraged to contact a healthcare provider.

New Laws Take Effect on July 1: Workplace Violence Reporting, Test Results, Non-Compete Contracts

In Virginia, July 1 marks the start of a new state fiscal year. It is also the effective date for several new laws enacted by the **Virginia General Assembly**. Among them is a [law](#) that amends an existing statute to clarify reporting requirements for incidents of workplace violence in hospitals. The legislation also directs the state **Board of Health** to promulgate regulations to implement its provisions and calls on VDH to publish a report on healthcare workplace violence statistics by the end of next year. Another [law](#) requires healthcare entities to wait 72 hours before disclosing test results that may indicate malignancy or genetic health markers in a patient’s health records, with some exceptions. New state [laws](#) also restrict employers from initiating or enforcing non-compete contracts with healthcare professionals. Additional information about new state laws approved by the legislature, including their effective dates

and implications, is available on the [VHHA website](#). A summary of many of those statutory changes is also available in a VHHA [webinar recording](#) recapping legislative developments from this year.

HosPAC Launches '100 for 100' New Donor Push, Contributions Help Support Hospital Advocacy

The start of July coincides with the effective date of several new state laws that apply to hospitals, healthcare providers, and the communities they serve. From workforce development and reimbursement policies to regulatory changes and public health initiatives, decisions made in Richmond influence how hospitals deliver care, support staff, and meet patient needs. Sustained advocacy efforts that reflect the voice of hospitals are a critical part of the process. The work of **HosPAC**, the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association's political action committee, helps advance that engagement. In honor of the VHHA centennial anniversary in 2026, HosPAC has launched the "100 for 100 Campaign" with a goal of welcoming 100 new donors as the Association celebrates 100 years of leadership, partnership, and advocacy on behalf of Virginia's hospitals. That proud legacy is a foundation to build a strong future in the next century. Each first-time contribution represents another voice supporting Virginia hospitals and health systems at the **Virginia General Assembly**. Growing the community of hospital advocates strengthens HosPAC's ability to build relationships with policymakers and ensures that hospitals have a strong, unified voice on healthcare advocacy. Read more about the campaign [here](#) and visit this link to contribute [today](#). Questions about HosPAC can be directed to **Hannah Coley** at hcoley@vhha.com.

Virtual Sessions on Hospital Requirement to Report Sickle Cell Diagnoses Set for July, August

[State law](#) requires hospitals, health clinics, and independent laboratories to report patients diagnosed with sickle cell disease to the Virginia Statewide Sickle Cell Disease (SSCD) Registry. The **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) is now expanding statewide implementation of the registry and has informed healthcare providers of the obligation to begin consistently reporting applicable patient data by August 2026, including eligible cases dating back to July 1, 2024. VDH has scheduled informational webinars on [July 21](#), [July 27](#), and [Aug. 6](#), each starting at 4 p.m. Virtual technical assistance sessions will be hosted on [Aug. 11](#) at 4 p.m., [Aug. 19](#) at noon, and [Aug. 27](#) at 4 p.m. Questions regarding the registry or reporting requirements can be directed to sicklecellregistry@vdh.virginia.gov.

Events

Save the Date for Virginia Hospital Leaders Summit in November, Early Registration Starts in August

As VHHA continues to celebrate its 100th anniversary this year, plans are underway for the **2026 Virginia Hospital Leaders Summit**, whose theme is "100 Years Strong: Honoring Our Past. Shaping the Future." For a century, Virginia's hospitals and health systems have served as the heartbeat of communities, providing compassionate care and leading through times of challenge and opportunity. From Nov. 4-6 at The Omni Homestead Resort, VHHA and hospital officials from across the Commonwealth will gather to celebrate a century of service, honor the leaders who have shaped healthcare in Virginia, and look ahead to the next 100 years. Mark your calendar today. Early registration opens Aug. 6.

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 Chesapeake Regional Healthcare Maternal Health Work

This episode of VHHA’s *Patients Come First* podcast features a conversation with **Shannon Roberts**, Director of Women’s and Children’s Services at **Chesapeake Regional Healthcare**, about support services for new moms and babies, 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 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



Amos

Halliwill

Hilton

Schnittger

Talento

Zabrowski

Bob Amos, CFO at **Valley Health**; **Don Halliwill**, Executive Vice President and CFO at **Carilion Clinic**; **Shane Hilton**, CFO at **Ballad Health**; **Stephanie Schnittger**, CFO at **UVA Health**; **Rick Talento**, CFO of **Inova**; and **John L. Zabrowski III**, Senior Vice President, CFO, and Chief Strategy Officer of **VHC Health**; have been named to the 2026 *Becker's Hospital Review* [list](#) of 180 hospital and health system CFOs to know.



Sentara Health has named **Michael Cole** Executive Vice President and President of **Sentara Health Plans**. He brings more than 20 years of executive leadership experience across the healthcare industry, with deep expertise in strategy, growth, affordability, and operational performance. His leadership has spanned large, complex payer organizations serving millions of members across commercial, Medicare, and ACA markets. Cole earned his MBA in Finance and Marketing from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and holds a bachelor's

degree from the University of Michigan. Read more [here](#).

Crystal Collette, DHA, FACHE, BCBA, has been selected as the new President-Elect for the **Central Virginia Healthcare Executive Group (CVHEG)**. Collette serves as Administrator of Behavioral Health with **UVA Health** and brings nearly 15 years of healthcare leadership experience in behavioral health, operations, and strategic program development. She has been an active member of CVHEG leadership, first as a committee member on the Early Careerist Committee and most recently as the Sponsorship Director. She is passionate about building professional connections, supporting leadership development, and mentoring the next generation of healthcare leaders.

