



FYI Weekly

HEALTHCARE NEWS FOR VIRGINIA'S
HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

You are receiving this e-mail from VHHA because you requested a subscription. Questions and content submissions may be sent to jtwalker@vhha.com.

FEATURED CONTENT

[VHHA in Action](#)

[News Updates](#)

- [Governor Spanberger Shares Data Dashboards on H.R. 1 Cuts, Projects 300,000 to Lose Coverage](#)
- [Trump Administration Proposes Changes to Medicare Part D Drug Benefit Subsidy](#)
- [CMS Issues Hospital Inpatient, LTCH, Hospice Final Rules and Payment Rates](#)
- [HHS Announces Revised 340B Payment Pilot Program, U.S. Senators Unveil Reform Proposal](#)
- [FDA Licenses First Freeze-Dried Plasma Product, Announces Ventilator Recalls](#)
- [VHCF Seeks Request for Applications on RHT Funding for Provider Interoperability Projects](#)
- [VDH Encourages Hospital Responses to CDC Maternity Practice, Infant Nutrition Survey by Sept. 10](#)

[Events](#)

- [Virtual Sessions on Hospital Requirement to Report Sickle Cell Diagnoses Set for August](#)
- [Registration Open for the Virginia Behavioral Health Summit on Sept. 24 in Richmond](#)
- [Save the Date for the Virginia Hospital Leaders Summit in November](#)
- [DMAS, DSS to Host Aug. 13 Virtual Town Hall on H.R. 1 Changes Related to Medicaid and Non-Citizens](#)
- [VHHA to Host In-Person Just Culture Workshop in Partnership with ECRI on Sept. 22](#)

[Podcast](#)

- [VHHA Patients Come First Podcast Features CNU Professor, Cancer Survivor Treated by Sentara](#)

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 Webinar to Preview Virginia Child Care Cost-Sharing Pilot Program

- This week, VHHA, in partnership with the **Virginia Early Childhood Foundation**, hosted a webinar focused on upcoming opportunities for hospitals to establish public-private partnerships to support childcare in their communities. During the **Virginia General Assembly 2026** legislative session, legislation was approved to establish the Employee Child Care Assistance Pilot Program and \$25 million in state funding is available to establish and support public-private childcare partnership pilots for Virginia employers participating in a cost-share model. This webinar explored how hospitals can become early adopters of a public-private model in which the state, employers, and families share the cost of childcare to increase childcare access and improve affordability. View a webinar recording [here](#).

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.

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

- In Virginia, the start of July each year 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.

VHHA Hosts Webinar to Share Rural Health Funding Updates on GME, Remote Monitoring

- The **VHHA Foundation** recently hosted a webinar focused on what hospitals need to know about applying for **Rural Health Transformation Program** funding for graduate medical education (GME) and remote patient monitoring projects. During the session, hospital participants connected with VHHA Foundation staff members who have subject matter expertise and information on federal Rural Health Transformation Program particulars such as timing, eligibility rules, and funding. View a webinar recording [here](#) and learn more about the program on the [VHHA Foundation website](#).

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 coverage from [WTOP](#), the [Augusta Free Press](#), [Virginia Business](#), [Stateline Publications](#), and [When in Your State](#).

News Updates

Governor Spanberger Shares Data Dashboards on H.R. 1 Cuts, Projects 300,000 to Lose Coverage

Virginia Governor Abigail Spanberger recently published new data [dashboards](#) focused on monitoring how federal health funding cuts under H.R. 1 of 2025 impact coverage in the Commonwealth. It is estimated that Medicaid cuts under the budget reconciliation package threaten healthcare coverage for 300,000 Virginians. H.R. 1 cuts nearly \$1 trillion in Medicaid funding over a decade. VHHA projects that funding cuts in the legislation and related regulatory proposals could reduce hospital funding in Virginia by \$34 billion over a decade, with annual cuts exceeding \$6 billion. Those cuts threaten hospital sustainability, public health, patient access to essential medical services, and the broader economy. The Governor recently released the new dashboards to coincide with the 61st anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid being signed into law.

Trump Administration Proposes Changes to Medicare Part D Drug Benefit Subsidy

The Administration of **U.S. President Donald J. Trump** has indicated plans to discontinue certain Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit subsidies in 2027, according to [published news reports](#) and a [statement](#) from the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS). Under the current system, the federal government pays insurance companies to subsidize prescription drug coverage to keep the cost at an average of \$36 per month. After the current subsidies cease, the drug benefit premiums may increase as much as \$20 per month.

CMS Issues Hospital Inpatient, LTCH, Hospice Final Rules and Payment Rates

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently issued a [final rule](#) to update Medicare payment rates for hospitals that use electronic health records and submit quarterly data measures. The final rule updates rates by a net 2.3 percent in fiscal year (FY) 2027, compared with FY 2026. That

reflects a 3.2 percent hospital market basket increase, as well as a 0.9 percent productivity cut. Those updates are expected to increase hospital payments by \$2.9 billion in FY 2027 over the previous year, including a \$228 million increase in disproportionate share and uncompensated care payments. CMS also recently issued a [final rule](#) to update payments by 2.3 percent for long-term care hospitals in FY 2027 relative to FY 2026. That includes a 3.2 percent market basket update, reduced by a 0.9 percentage point productivity adjustment. CMS also finalized a decision to freeze the outlier threshold at the FY 2026 level. Read more [here](#). And CMS issued a [final rule](#) to update Medicare hospice payments and the aggregate cap amount for FY 2027 under existing statutory and regulatory requirements. These final rules follow those for FY 2027 payment rates applicable to [inpatient psychiatric facilities](#), [skilled nursing facilities](#), and [inpatient rehabilitation facilities](#).

HHS Announces Revised 340B Payment Pilot Program, U.S. Senators Unveil Reform Proposal

The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**, through the **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)**, recently announced a revised 340B Rebate Model Pilot Program that will allow participating drug manufacturers to provide 340B discounts through a rebate process rather than the traditional upfront discount model for a limited set of drugs. The pilot follows extensive stakeholder feedback and is intended to test a rebate-based approach while maintaining the statutory requirements of the 340B Drug Pricing Program, which helps eligible hospitals and clinics access discounted medications and stretch resources to serve vulnerable populations. HRSA will oversee the pilot, drawing on existing rebate program frameworks, with eligible manufacturers required to submit participation plans by Aug. 24, 2026 to 340BPricing@hrsa.gov. Approvals, if any, will be made by Sept. 24 2026, for a Jan. 1, 2027 effective date for drugs that are a selected drug for an initial price applicability period 2026 and 2027. Earlier this year, HRSA [issued a request for information](#) (RFI) regarding a potential new 340B Rebate Model Pilot Program after HHS pulled back on plans to implement a proposed 340B Rebate Model Pilot Program following a federal legal challenge and subsequent judicial decisions that did not favor the government's position. Read more about the revised pilot program model [here](#). In another development, published reporting [indicates](#) that a bipartisan working group of U.S. Senators who have worked on the 340B issue are collaborating on a reform [bill](#) that would create program "guardrails, such as new transparency and reporting requirements, without undermining the program's purpose."

FDA Licenses First Freeze-Dried Plasma Product, Announces Ventilator Recalls

The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** recently licensed Ezplaz Freeze Dried Plasma (FDP), making it the first freeze-dried plasma product licensed for use in the United States. Ezplaz is intended for transfusion in adult patients who need plasma and for whom other plasma products are not available. Ezplaz is a freeze-dried (lyophilized) plasma product derived from a single unit of fresh frozen plasma collected from FDA-licensed blood establishments. It is available in Group AB and Group A with low-titer anti-B blood types, chosen to mitigate risk of giving to patients in emergencies before their blood type is determined. Unlike conventional plasma products that must be stored frozen and thawed before use, Ezplaz can be stored at room temperature, is stable after exposure to temperature fluctuations and is rapidly reconstituted. Read more [here](#). In other news, the FDA recently advised that **Resmed** has issued a letter to affected customers recommending that certain Astral 100 and Astral 150 ventilators be corrected as soon as replacement parts become available, noting patients should not stop using the ventilator unless instructed to by a clinician. The FDA also noted that **Abiomed** has issued a letter to affected customers recommending all 14Fr Low Profile Introducer Kits be removed from where they are used or sold. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

VHCF Seeks Request for Applications on RHT Funding for Provider Interoperability Projects

The **Virginia Health Care Foundation** (VHCF), a key implementation partner in Virginia's Rural Health Transformation (RHT) efforts, has launched a request for applications (RFA) for provider interoperability project funding. Health information technology is reshaping care delivery by enabling providers to coordinate seamlessly across settings, safeguard patient data, and spend less time on administrative tasks and more time with patients. Yet many rural providers in Virginia lack the digital infrastructure to fully participate in this connected system. The provider interoperability sub-initiative under the RHT framework is designed to close that gap and represents a promising strategy to strengthen healthcare delivery for rural Virginians. Read more details about the application process at this [link](#).

VDH Encourages Hospital Responses to CDC Maternity Practice, Infant Nutrition Survey by Sept. 10

The **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) is encouraging Virginia hospitals to participate in the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (mPINC) survey. The survey helps hospitals assess what they can do to foster a breastfeeding-friendly environment. Survey questions focus on specific parts of the hospital maternity care that affect how babies are fed, such as breastfeeding, using formula to feed healthy newborns, and feeding routines. The survey deadline is Sept. 10. At present, 38 percent of Virginia hospitals have responded to the survey. The survey is administered by a CDC contractor, Abt Global, which contacts hospitals by e-mail and phone. Read more about the survey [here](#). Questions may be directed to mPINC@cdc.gov.

Events

Virtual Sessions on Hospital Requirement to Report Sickle Cell Diagnoses Set for 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 virtual technical assistance sessions 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.

Registration Open for the Virginia Behavioral Health Summit on Sept. 24 in Richmond

Registration is now open for the **2026 Virginia Behavioral Health Summit**, which is scheduled for Sept. 24 at The Westin-Richmond. The theme for this year's Summit is "Innovating with Purpose: Building a Resilient Behavioral Health System." The annual Summit is a daylong event that brings together providers, patient advocates, administrators, policymakers, and other stakeholders to explore practical strategies for strengthening behavioral healthcare across the Commonwealth. Summit sessions will focus on topics including behavioral health treatment, workforce and wellbeing initiatives, patient and staff safety, crisis response, and innovative approaches to care delivery. Register for the Summit [here](#).

Save the Date for the Virginia Hospital Leaders Summit in November

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. Registration information will be available soon.

DMAS, DSS to Host Aug. 13 Virtual Town Hall on H.R. 1 Changes Related to Medicaid and Non-Citizens

The **Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)** and the **Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS)** are hosting a virtual town hall at noon on Aug. 13 regarding changes to Medicaid under H.R. 1 of 2025 that may impact non-citizens. H.R. 1 is the budget reconciliation package of 2025 known as the One Big Beautiful Bill. It cuts nearly \$1 trillion in Medicaid funding over a decade and makes changes to enrollment and eligibility standards. The upcoming virtual session will provide an overview of the changes that will take effect in October 2026, which include updates related to non-citizen eligibility, what these changes may mean for Medicaid members, and where to find additional information and resources. Use this [link](#) to join the virtual session.

VHHA to Host In-Person Just Culture Workshop in Partnership with ECRI on Sept. 22

VHHA, in partnership with ECRI, invites hospital leaders to register to attend an in-person workshop at VHHA offices in Glen Allen, VA on Sept. 22 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) focused on implementing Just Culture principles across their organizations. By fostering an environment where team members feel empowered to speak up, learn from mistakes, and contribute openly, leaders can strengthen patient safety and workforce engagement. This one-day, in-person course equips healthcare leaders and professionals across roles with the foundational knowledge and practical tools needed to implement and sustain Just Culture principles within their organizations. Workshop attendees will receive all course materials, lunch, and be eligible to complete the Managers and Influencers course exam asynchronously following completion of the program. View registration details [here](#).

Podcast

***VHHA Patients Come First* Podcast Features CNU Professor, Cancer Survivor Treated by Sentara**

This episode of VHHA's Patients Come First podcast features a conversation with **David Knight**, PhD, a biology and anatomy professor at Christopher Newport University, who joins us for a conversation about an unexpected cancer diagnosis, how the treatment he received at **Sentara Health** inspired him to pursue training as a nurse, and much 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 pcfpcast@vhha.com.



Around the State



Monica L. Baskin, PhD, will serve as the next director of the **VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center** pending VCU Board of Visitors approval in September. She is also expected to be named the Lipman chair in oncology. Dr. Baskin is the first female director of Massey and the first black woman to be named director of a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated cancer center. She will begin in the director's role on August 3, 2026. Dr. Baskin is the fifth director of Massey since its NCI designation in 1975. She oversees a comprehensive cancer

center made up of 250 scientists and clinical investigators. Throughout her career, Baskin has championed the community-to-bench cancer care model for which Massey has earned international acclaim. A world-renowned population scientist, Baskin is recognized for her exemplary community engagement efforts, including prioritizing the needs of those in rural areas and the medically underserved. Her research examines how behavioral, social, and environmental factors influence cancer prevention, screening, treatment, and survivorship. She has also led lifestyle interventions to improve cancer-related behaviors and health outcomes such as diet, physical activity and obesity, particularly among rural populations and groups that have been historically underserved. Since arriving at Massey in February 2025, Dr. Baskin has strengthened Massey's impact throughout its catchment area, which covers central, southern and eastern Virginia. Dr. Baskin has elevated Massey's national presence through her leadership in several professional academic societies, including as former president of the Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM) and board member of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), and the Science of Community Outreach and Education (SoCOE) Alliance. Read more [here](#).

Clinch Valley Medical Center recently announced that **Joy Tibbs**, RN, is the new Director of Women's Services, bringing more than three decades of nursing experience and a lifelong passion for caring for mothers, babies, and families. Born in the state of Washington and later moving to New Mexico, Tibbs began her healthcare journey at New Mexico State University, where she initially



pursued microbiology before discovering her calling in nursing. She graduated from the University's Associate Degree Nursing program in 1995 and began what would become a remarkable career dedicated to women's health. Read more [here](#).



Clinch Valley Medical Center recently announced that **Cassandra Smith**, MSN, RN, CCRN, is the new Director of Infection Prevention, where she will lead hospital efforts to protect patients, visitors, and staff through evidence-based infection prevention practices and quality improvement initiatives. A Pennsylvania native, Smith's nursing career in Southwest Virginia began after earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from the University of Virginia's College at Wise in 2017. She worked in the Intensive Care Unit at Johnston Memorial Hospital and was later promoted to Assistant Nurse Manager of the ICU. Smith later transitioned into travel nursing, working in healthcare facilities across multiple states during that time. She brings a wealth of practice experience and insight to Clinch Valley Medical Center. In 2025, Smith earned her Master of Science in Nursing Administration degree from Radford University. Read more [here](#).