

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:

- VHHA recently submitted a [public comment letter](#) regarding the **Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency** (CISA) proposed Cyber Incident Reporting for Critical Infrastructure Act (CIRCA) reporting requirements.
- This week, VHHA held a meeting of the **Healthcare Safety and Security Workgroup** that focuses on hospital safety and security considerations for staff, patients, and visitors.
- On National Clinical Trial Day (May 20, 2024), VHHA staff attended an event with **Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin** and the **Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation** (VIPPC) for an announcement the new "Virginia Invests" initiative to attract investment in Virginia startups and entrepreneurs. This includes life science and biotechnology firms, of which there are more than 1,400 in Virginia that employ more than 26,500 people and contribute \$8 billion to the state economy. The VHHA-supported [Virginia Coordinated Clinical Research Network](#) (VCCRN) is a coalition of health care systems, institutions of higher education, and other organizations working to advance that work and grow clinical research in the Commonwealth.
- VHHA staff participated in the monthly meeting of the **Regional Disciplinary Collaborative Working to Disrupt Human Trafficking** (RIC). Learn more [here](#).
- The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration** (FDA) recently granted accelerated approval to tarlatamab-dlle (Imdelltra, Amgen, Inc.) for extensive stage small cell lung cancer (ES-SCLC) with disease progression on or after platinum-based chemotherapy. Read more [here](#).
- The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently announced an additional extension of unwinding-related waivers regarding coverage continuity for Medicaid and the

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Under the updated flexibility, states can use certain waiver authority regarding the process of making coverage eligibility determinations. That extension runs until June 30, 2025, one year beyond the previous deadline in June 2024. CMS indicates this step is being taken to "maximize states' ability to ensure that eligible individuals retain coverage" during the redetermination process. A public health emergency was declared during the COVID-19 pandemic, a period in which Medicaid and CHIP enrollees were allowed to retain coverage without an evaluation of their continued eligibility. When the public health emergency ended in May 2023, states resumed the process of eligibility determinations. Read more [here](#).

- The **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)**, the **Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)**, the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**, and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center recently issued a joint cybersecurity advisory to provide information on Black Basta, a ransomware variant whose actors have encrypted and stolen data from at least 12 out of 16 critical infrastructure sectors, including the health care and public health sector. Read more [here](#).
- VHHA recently celebrated **National Hospital Week** (May 12-18, 2024), which is an annual opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the many contributions hospitals make to support patients, families, communities, and public health. Virginia is home to more than 100 acute care, children's, specialty, rehabilitation, psychiatric, critical access, and long-term care hospitals that are there for people at a moment's notice, no matter the day or time. Hospitals and their dedicated teams of clinicians and caregivers are essential to a thriving society. In addition to delivering direct patient care, hospitals help train future doctors and nurses, support clinical research to produce future treatments and cures, invest in increasing access to care, promote community health and well-being, and strengthen our economy. In recognition of Hospital Week 2024, [Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin issued a formal proclamation honoring the work and contributions of Virginia hospitals](#). VHHA also produced a [video](#) highlighting the central role of hospitals in contributing to the communities they serve. Virginia hospitals are leaders in patient safety, clinical excellence, and emergency readiness. They invest in workforce development to prepare future clinicians to meet growing demand for medical care, and in improving the behavioral health system and increasing access to care, all while supporting local and state economies. Read more [here](#).
- Hundreds of hospital officials, behavioral health professionals, and stakeholders recently gathered in Richmond for the **2024 Virginia Behavioral Health Summit**, the theme of which was "Connection: Building a Behavioral Health System that Serves All." The purpose of the one-day event was to expand knowledge about behavioral health treatment and access for clinicians, health care administrators, policymakers, and community-based providers. The Summit featured innovative behavioral health models, patient-centered strategies, an overview of the expansion of the crisis system across the state, and the opportunity to learn about advances in technology that can improve behavioral health resources. Featured speakers during the Summit included **Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin**, **Dr. Scott Zeller** of Vituity, and stress and mental health expert **Tami West**, PhD. Other speakers and panelists include representatives from **Carilion Clinic**, **Centra Health**, **Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS)**, **HCA Virginia**, **Riverside Health System**, **Sentara Health**, **Summit Behavioral Health**, the **Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)**, and **Williams Mullen**. In addition to program participants and attendees, VHHA and the VHHA Foundation thank the following sponsors for their support of the Summit: [Qualivis](#), [Vizient](#), [Arrowood Addiction Treatment Center](#), [Augusta Health](#), [Centra Health](#), [EVMS](#), [Initial VII Consulting](#), [Mary Washington Healthcare](#), [Sentara Health](#), [TSW](#), [Universal Health Services](#), [Unite Us](#), [Valley Health](#), [VCU Health](#),

[Ballad Health](#), [Grafton Integrated Health Network](#), [Troutman Pepper Strategies](#), [VHHA Solutions](#), the [Virginia Academy of Physician Assistants](#), the [Virginia Association of Community-Based Providers](#), and [Williams Mullen](#). View a Summit brochure [here](#), view Summit photos [here](#), and read more about the event through this [link](#).

- The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) is seeking public comment on [draft guidance](#) regarding the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program, which will negotiate prices with drug makers for certain high-cost, sole-source drugs and apply them beginning in 2026. The drug price program is a provision of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. July 2 is the public comment deadline. Read more [here](#).
- The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) has issued a [final rule](#) to allow young undocumented immigrants who are authorized to work in the U.S. to purchase health coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace. The rule takes effect Nov. 1, 2024.
- VHHA recently hosted a webinar to provide the health care community with timely information from the **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) regarding the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). A webinar recording is available through this [link](#) and presentation slides can be accessed [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 [WVIR](#), [WDBJ](#), [WVVA](#), multiple [articles](#) in [Yahoo News](#), [Cap Edge](#), [DC News Now](#), [WDC News 6](#), the [Hemp Gazette](#), and the [Virginia Political Newsletter](#).

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2. National EMS Week Celebrates its 50th Anniversary

This week (May 19-25, 2024) is the 50th anniversary of National EMS Week, which represents an opportunity to show gratitude to emergency medical technicians (EMT) and paramedics who provide lifesaving care across the nation each day. EMS Week is also a time to educate the public about EMS and essential services. This year's theme is "Honoring Our Past, Forging Our Future." EMS Week celebrates the paramedics, EMTs, and other EMS professionals who work diligently to care for patients and serve communities in times of crisis.

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3. CMS Launches EMTALA Complaint Portal for Consumers

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) has launched a new option on CMS.gov to allow individuals to more easily file an Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) complaint. Medicare-participating hospitals are required under EMTALA to provide medical screening exams for individuals arriving at hospital emergency departments to determine if the person has an emergency medical condition. If an emergency medical condition is confirmed, hospitals must provide stabilizing medical treatment (or, if unable to stabilize the person within its capability, to appropriately transfer the patient). Read more [here](#).

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4. VHHA Members Encouraged to Apply for 'Earn to Learn' Nurse Education Acceleration Program

The **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) Office of Health Equity is seeking applications for the Virginia Earn to Learn (ETL) Nursing Education Acceleration Program. For state fiscal year 2024, the **Virginia**

General Assembly directed VDH to use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA SLRF) to establish the Virginia Earn to Learn Nursing Education Acceleration Program. The funding will support education and health care facility partnerships to provide registered nurse (RN) and licensed practical nurse (LPN) students with paid employment during nursing studies to increase clinical education opportunities and the number of practice-ready new graduate nurses. See more details about the request for application opportunity [here](#). Applications are due by June 4 at 11:45 p.m. EDT.

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5. CISA Issues Cybersecurity Guidance for Non-Profit and Community Organizations

The **Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency** (CISA) and international partner agencies recently released guidance for high-risk nonprofit and other resource-constrained community organizations to assist in understanding and mitigating cyber threats. The guide provides several recommendations for organizations to follow such as keeping software updated on user devices and IT infrastructure; implementing phishing-resistant multifactor authentication; account auditing and disabling those that are unused or unnecessary; selecting vendors with due diligence; implementing basic cybersecurity training; and developing and exercising incident response and recovery plans. Read more [here](#).

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6. VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features UVA Health Laryngologist, Voice Specialist

The latest episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Dr. James Daniero**, a laryngologist at the **UVA Health Voice and Swallowing Clinic** who specializes in caring for people who use their voice extensively. The conversation covers his specialized training, the kinds of patients Dr. Daniero works with, vocal cord health, 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 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, 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. – Will Selden

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7. CDC Shares Hypertension in Pregnancy Resource Package

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC), in conjunction with the Million Hearts initiative, has released a [Hypertension in Pregnancy Change Package](#) (HPCP) with tools and resources for outpatient clinicians and care team members to use to identify, manage and prevent complications of hypertension in pregnancy. The HPCP was developed in partnership with the **American Academy of Family Physicians** (AAFP), the **American College of Nurse-Midwives** (ACNM), the **American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists** (ACOG), the **American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists** (ACOOG), the **American Medical Association** (AMA), the **National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health** (NPWH), and the **Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine** (SMFM). It presents an evidence-informed listing of process improvements with accompanying tools and resources

that outpatient clinicians and care team members can implement as they provide care to pregnant and postpartum women and women of reproductive age with a focus on early identification, optimal management, and prevention of complications of hypertension in pregnancy.

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8. VHHA to Host May 29 In-Person Workshop on Identifying and Retaining Devoted Employees

VHHA is hosting an in-person workshop on May 29 (10 a.m.-2 p.m.) at its offices in Glen Allen, VA that will be facilitated by **Joe Mull**, a featured keynote speaker at the [2024 Virginia Healthcare Workforce Summit](#). The theme of the workshop is “Becoming a Destination Workplace: What Leaders Must Do to Find and Keep Devoted Employees.” Registration cost is \$50, which includes lunch and all meeting materials. Capacity is limited for this event. Register [here](#) to secure a spot. Questions may be directed to events@vhha.com. – Sharon Alexander

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9. FDA Issues Recall on Anesthesia System and Heart Blood Pump Implant

The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** has [issued a Class I recall](#) of the Draeger Perseus A500 anesthesia system due to the risk of sudden failure when operating on battery power, and a [Class I recall](#) of the Abbott HeartMate 3 Left Ventricular Assist System (LVAS). A Class I recall is the most serious type of recall. The Perseus A500 anesthesia workstation is intended for use in anesthetizing adults, children, and neonates and can be used for automatic and manual ventilation, pressure-supported spontaneous breathing, and spontaneous breathing. It is equipped with airway monitoring, gas measurement and device monitoring, oxygen blower (insufflation), and an anesthetic gas receiving system. The device creates anesthesia by mixing pure oxygen and medical compressed air or pure oxygen and nitrous oxide along with anesthetic agents. Ventilation is provided to the patient through a laryngeal mask, a breathing mask, or an endotracheal tube. Perseus is intended to be used for inhaled anesthesia, patient ventilation, or both during surgical or diagnostic procedures. Draeger Inc. is recalling the Perseus A500 anesthesia workstation after receiving reports that the internal backup battery failed spontaneously while the system was being operated off the main power supply. The battery failure caused unexpected shutdown without a low battery alarm while the device was running on battery power. If the Perseus shuts down suddenly, patients may not receive enough ventilation (hypoventilation) or enough oxygen (hypoxia) while an alternative form of ventilation is initiated. Use of this device may cause serious injury or death. The HeartMate 3 Left Ventricular Assist System (LVAS) is used to help the heart pump blood when it is not able to do so effectively on its own. The HeartMate 3 is used for both short- and long-term support in pediatric and adult patients with severe left ventricular heart failure. It can be used while waiting for a heart transplant, to help the heart recover, or as a permanent solution when a transplant isn't an option. HeartMate 3 LVAS takes over the pumping function of the left ventricle, the main pumping chamber of the heart. It diverts blood from the weakened left ventricle and propels it into the body's main artery, the aorta, helping to circulate blood throughout the body. The device is used both inside and outside of the hospital. Abbott is recalling the HeartMate 3 LVAS after complaint reviews identified blood leakage or air entering the seal interface between the left ventricular assist device (LVAD) inflow cannula and the apical cuff. In all reported events, the issue was observed during implantation of the device. Blood leakage or air entering the LVAD from this location will impact the integrity of the blood flow and may lead to longer than expected surgery, bleeding (hemorrhage), right heart failure, or air embolism. Use of these devices may cause serious injury or death. Abbott has reported 81 incidents, including 70 injuries and two deaths related to this issue.

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10. Around the State

Carilion Clinic CEO **Nancy Howell Agee** and **UVA Health** CEO **Dr. K. Craig Kent** have been named to the Great leaders in healthcare list for 2024 by [Becker's Hospital Review](#).

Virginia Beach Psychiatric Center, a **Universal Health Services Inc.** facility, has been named the sole recipient of the UHS Service Excellence Award for the entirety of the acute behavioral health division. The Service Excellence Award is the most coveted award bestowed annually by the entire company to a UHS provider. The award identifies high functioning and effectual teams at the facility level that embody the core tenets and pillars of service excellence to patients, the community, and to team members.

Dr. Chris Thomson, MD, MS, MBA, FACEP, has been named Executive Vice President, and Chief Administrative and Transformation Officer by **Centra Health**.

Cameron Lew, MBA, BSN, RN, CEN, Emergency Department Operations Manager at Inova Alexandria Hospital, has been named to the [2024 40 Under 40 Class](#) by the **Alexandria Chamber of Commerce**.

The [Patients Come First](#) podcast from the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association** (VHHA) has been named one of the [15 Best Patient Experience Podcasts in 2024 by Feedspot](#). VHHA launched the podcast in 2017. It can currently be heard on major digital podcast platforms as well as 19 radio stations across five states. – Salinna Lor

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